10 suspected NPA rebels killed in Rizal clash

STORY ON PAGE A2

Miriam scuttles plan to teach at La Salle

By Juliet L. Javellana

EX-SEN. Miriam Defensor-Santiago continues to pay a steep price for her alliance with ousted President Joseph Estrada.

In a statement, Santiago yesterday said she had withdrawn her application to teach at De La Salle University after certain

MIRIAM/A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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Erap bank assets frozen

Sandigan ruling also covers Ang, Ricaforte properties

By Volt Contreras

IN WHAT state prosecutors hailed as an "initial victory for the people," the Sandiganbayan yesterday ordered a freeze on bank deposits believed to be illegally amassed by ousted President Joseph Estrada.

The anti-graft court also ordered a freeze on the property of two of his co-accused, Charlie "Atong" Ang and Yolanda Ricaforte, in a P4-billion plunder case.

It placed under its custody assets registered under the name of "Jose Velarde," albeit without specifying an amount. Velarde was the alias Estrada used in signing bank documents purportedly to facilitate a P500-million loan to his businessman-friend William Gatchalian in February 2000.

Records contained in an envelope that the Senate opened on Feb. 14, 2001, or a month after the impeachment trial of Estrada was aborted, showed that the Velarde account with Equitable PCI Bank contained a total of P3.2 billion in deposits.

Prosecutors sought the freeze order in a motion filed on Aug. 16, 2001, or four months after the Office of the Ombudsman filed criminal charges against Estrada and his associates.

Curiously, the motion was silent about other questionable, more publicized pieces of property traced to Estrada, like the "Boracay" mansion and other opulent houses he had allegedly built for his mistresses.

The Sandiganbayan said the freeze order would henceforth prevent these assets from being lost, transferred or reduced in value should the accused be found guilty and ordered to pay the State for damages.

In a resolution, the special division granted the prosecution's motion for the issuance of a writ of preliminary attachment to Estrada et al.'s "properties whether real and personal . . . sufficient to secure the amount of the alleged ill-gotten wealth" cited in the case.

The Sandiganbayan ruling covered four specific items prosecutors initially wanted frozen pending their determination of Estrada's other alleged ill-gotten assets.

ERAP/A17

Pope visit to Manila in January canceled

By Armand N. Nocum

POPE John Paul II will not be able to come to Manila for the 4th World Meeting of Families scheduled on Jan. 22-26.

Organizers admitted yesterday that the absence of the Pope, who is afflicted with arthritis and Parkinson's disease, could affect attendance at the event.

Despite concerns that the 82-year-old Pontiff would not be able to make it because of health problems, Philippine Church officials have begun preparations by holding prayer rallies and meetings with security officials.

While Vatican officials said the Pope had wanted to participate, the trip was never actually confirmed. The Associated Press reported that last weekend, the Pope named Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, head of the Vatican's office on the family, as his envoy to the international conference.

Neither Manila Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas nor Fr. Joselito Jopson, director of the Manila archdiocese office of communications and vice chair of the world meeting's media committee, gave a reason for the cancellation of the Pope's visit.

"(But) the spirit of the Holy Father will always be with us," Jopson said in a phone interview.

Villegas, who issued a statement yesterday on the matter, only said Vatican Secretary of State Angelo Cardinal Sodano had "formally conveyed" to Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin the "sad news."

"The Holy Father is already praying that the World Meeting of Families will be crowned by success and will offer the par-

POPE/A6

GEORGIE DIAZ

TAGAYTAY RIDGE DUMP
The sight of rising piles of garbage on the mountainside along the road leading to Taal Lake is turning off visitors to Tagaytay City, a premier tourist destination south of Metro Manila. They suspect that the dump has the approval of local authorities.

Civil society groups ask: Why only now?

By Christian V. Esguerra and Gerald G. Lacuarta

WHY only now?

Civil society groups and former prosecutors in the impeachment trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada posed this question to the Sandiganbayan following its freeze order on Estrada's assets and those of his co-accused.

"Estrada had more than enough time to hide or dispose of his assets, bank accounts and all," Carol Araullo, convenor of PlunderWatch, yesterday told the INQUIRER.

Lawyer Leonard de Vera, who assisted House prosecutors in the impeachment complaint against Estrada in 2000, doubted if government prosecutors could still recover the bulk of the jailed President's assets should he be convicted of plunder.

"The name of the game in (motions for preliminary) attachment is time," De Vera told the INQUIRER.

"Since it's been a year since (former) Ombudsman Aniano Desierto filed the motion, we are now uncertain on what property we can still recover. Perhaps there have already been changes in the ownership," he said.

CIVIL/A17

'Why did Marohombsar have slash on neck?'

By Juliet L. Javellana and TJ Burgonio, *in Manila*
and Charlie C. Señase
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COULD Faisal Marohombsar have been killed in a rubout?

Lanao del Norte Rep. Benasing Macarambon, a third-degree relative of the Pentagon kidnap group leader slain Sunday in Magallanes, Cavite, yesterday raised that possibility.

"We are not defending Marohombsar and his crimes but what happened to him looks like a rubout," Macarambon said of the supposed shootout with police that left the kidnap leader dead and T/Sgt. Willie Madayag of the Anti-Kidnapping Task Force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Aktafp) wounded.

Macarambon quoted a relative as saying that Marohombsar's body bore a neck wound. "If he was killed in a shootout, how come he had a slash on his neck?" the lawmaker said.

But Macarambon said he would await the results of a medico-legal examination before calling for a congressional inquiry into Marohombsar's killing.

Malacañang, however, was quick to deny the rubout angle.

"You don't have a rubout when one of your men was also shot," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in reference to Madayag. "A member of the rescue team was actually wounded, so there was a shootout."

Madayag was part of a team

WHY/A6

Loi: Don't we have right to get rich?

By Cynthia D. Balana

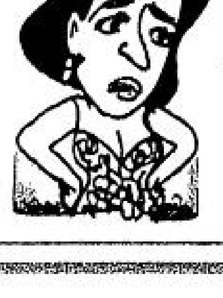
BRIBE money from *"jueteng,"* if ever any was given to Joseph Estrada when he was President, was not part of government funds.

So said Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito-Estrada as she assailed a court order freezing her husband's bank accounts and other assets.

LOI/A17

EJERCITO: "Jueteng" money not government funds.

Alma still hurting over Joey remarks



By Marinel R. Cruz

ALMA Moreno is under instruction from her lawyer to keep a tight lip on the breakup of her 12-year marriage to Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez.

But this did not prevent the actress from unburdening herself to the INQUIRER and talking about her difficulties with

ALMA/A6

Deportees arrive, need medical aid

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A total of 1,597 Filipinos, mostly women and children, arrived in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, yesterday morning after being deported from Malaysia, which has been cracking down on illegal migrants.

But two infants died during the trip from the eastern Malaysian state of Sabah on board the Navy ship, the BRP Bacolod-550, according to Department of Social Welfare and Development officials in Bongao.

There were reports that 30 of the deportees, mostly children, were rushed to the Datu Halun Sankilan Memorial Hospital for immediate medical attention.

Commodore Ernesto de Leon, Naval Forces South commander, said some of the deportees "are sick and most of the children and women are suffering from respiratory tract infection."

"We have brought doctors to treat them. We pity them and if others could only see their plight, you would feel your chest tighten, realizing what they have been through," he said.

Thousands of sun-drenched Filipinos, some risking their lives packed like sardines in small leaky boats, have been arriving daily in recent weeks in the southern Philippines from Sabah on Borneo Island.

They have been dubbed "boat people," a term used for the boatloads of southern Vietnamese fleeing the new communist regime in Hanoi in the late 1970s.

Malaysia introduced strict laws against illegals on Aug. 1, with a mandatory six months in

DEPORTEES/A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2002

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/27/02

Second FRONT PAGE

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Abus have nowhere to run—Army

By Martin P. Marfil

THE DEMAND of the Abu Sayyaf that the military pull its forces out of Jolo island before they would negotiate the release of four Jehovah's Witnesses they seized last week was "a good sign," said the chief of the Army's Southern Command yesterday.

"That means they are really afraid," Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina said.

"They have nowhere to run," he added, noting that six Army battalions have been tactically deployed in Patikul town in Sulu to plug all escape routes.

From his command post on Jolo island, Brig. Gen. Romeo Tolentino said the kidnappers were constantly moving in dense jungle to evade government troops.

"Our troops are combing the jungle inch by inch but the kidnappers are constantly on the run," Tolentino said.

He said the rescue operation would continue to pressure the kidnappers to free their hostages without any ransom being paid.

The gunmen, led by Abdulmuin Sahiron, a nephew of Abu Sayyaf leader Radulan Sahiron, have been given an ultimatum to free their hostages by today or face a massive assault.

Some 4,000 Marines, Army Scout Rangers and an elite antiterrorism unit trained by the US Green Berets have been dispatched to track them down and rescue the hostages.

The four women hostages were seized last week along with four others.

No news

Two guides were freed but two others were beheaded.

As of yesterday, the Southcom had not received any information about the four women hostages or their condition.

Apart from the Jehovah's Witnesses, three Indonesian fishermen kidnapped in June are also being held hostage by another group of armed men in Jolo.

The group holding the Indonesians has demanded a ransom of P15 million which was rejected by authorities.

Carolina said the military was just waiting for negotiations for the release of the four women hostages to conclude before unleashing its forces.

"They are not in a position to demand anything," he said of the gunmen's demand that the military pull out its forces as a condition for negotiations to start.

"Preposterous," was how Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said of the demand for a military pull-out.

"The government is not going to pull out," Reyes said.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo has instructed the military "to go all-out to get them, so that's what we're going to do."

Appeal

If nothing comes of the negotiations, the military was ready to go after the kidnappers, he said.

In Cebu City, the family of Cleofe Famat-Bantolo, one of the hostages, has appealed to the President to help bring back her daughter.

"I hope that the President will help us," said Teofista Famat, 79.

Teofista and her nephew, Abundio Albios, said they were afraid that Cleofe could end up like her brother-in-law, Lurimil Bantolo, and Lionel Mantic who were beheaded by the kidnappers.

Classmate

Albios said he was worried that the government might not exert serious efforts to rescue Cleofe because she comes from a poor family.

RPN 9 chair and CEO Cerge Remonde, reportedly a former classmate of Cleofe's, promised to personally relay the family's sentiments to the President.

In an interview with dyLA radio, Teofista said she could not believe it when she was told that her daughter was among those who had been kidnapped in Patikul.

The Famat family is from Sitio Cancainap, Barangay Tulic, Argao, about 66 km south of Cebu City. Teofista said her daughter was due back for a visit in September.

Cleofe, 49, is the ninth of the 11 siblings. All the members of the family, except for their deceased father Ambrocio, are members of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Cleofe was just a teenager when she started her missionary activities.

In 1985, she married Benjamin Bantolo in Zamboanga City. They are the parents of two school-age boys.

Teofista said her daughter would regularly send her money even if she and her husband had no regular jobs. Every year, the mother would be taken to visit Zamboanga.

Cleofe and her husband are engaged in selling Chinese medicines and perfumes, aside from their religious duties with the Jehovah's Witnesses. ***With reports from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau, and Dona Pazzibugan***

10 rebels killed in Rizal town

TEN suspected members of the New People's Army were killed in a firefight Sunday government troops in Rodriguez, Rizal.

The 10 were not identified.

According to a situation report, the clash occurred at around 8 a.m. when elements of the 11th Infantry Battalion spotted the suspected rebels in Barangay San Isidro, Rodriguez.

The firefight lasted for ten minutes and ended when the rebels withdrew, the report said.

Later that day, elements of the 21st Reconnaissance Co. and the 59th Infantry Battalion discovered an abandoned NPA camp composed of about 20 huts in the same barangay.

No casualties were reported on the government side.

But yesterday afternoon, a Vietnam-era helicopter gunship deploying troops to Rodriguez caught fire, overturned and was declared a total wreck.

No one was seriously hurt but its two pilots and two crewmen suffered slight injuries, a report reaching Camp Aguinaldo said. ***Martin P. Marfil***

Kidnap deadline moved up

INSTEAD of one year, the Philippine National Police now has only six months to stop kidnappings in the country.

President Macapagal-Arroyo promised a group of Japanese businessmen yesterday the kidnapping problem would be licked in six months.

"I gave the PNP chief (Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.) one year to eliminate kidnappings but I talked to him yesterday and he thinks it could be (done in) just six months," Ms Macapagal told Atsutoshi Nishida, president of Toshiba Digital Media Network Co., who paid a courtesy call at Malacañang yesterday.

Nishida, who was with other Toshiba executives, asked the President about the status of the anti-kidnapping campaign.

"The President very optimistically stated that the campaign could be over in six months," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters later. ***Dona Z. Pazzibugan***

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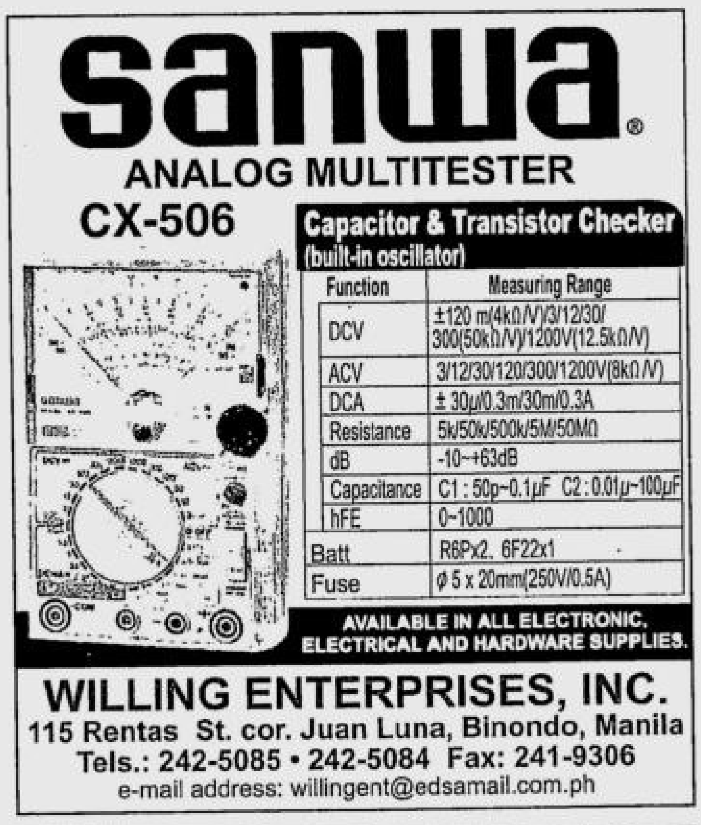
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Solons unhappy over slow release of 'pork'

By J. Javellana

MALACAÑANG promised yesterday to release P2 billion, or 40 percent, of the delayed pork barrel of congressmen, and still the lawmakers would not be appeased.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin tried to pacify agitated members of the House majority and minority in separate meetings yesterday after the solons had threatened to oust Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and sit on the 2003 national budget.

Following Boncodin's two-hour caucus with the majority, De Venecia announced that the gradual release of the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) and Public Works funds, the two main sources of funding for the legislators' pet projects, would start on Sept. 1 or 2.

The total unreleased pork barrel is P4.6 billion.

The speaker said the meeting with Boncodin was "very successful," although not everyone thought so.

"We worked out a system of gradual release in order not to prejudice economic pump-priming efforts in all provinces, cities, towns and barangays," De Venecia said.

First to be disbursed, he said, would be P5 million per congressman, for anti-El Niño projects. An individual PDAF share is P35 million.

Agusan del Sur Rep. Rodrigo Plaza said Boncodin promised to deliver the balance before year's end.

"What choice do we have?" Plaza replied when asked if the solons were satisfied with the arrangement. "At least 40 percent would be released."

Plaza said many public works contractors had stopped operations because of payment delays. But he said the congressmen did not blame De Venecia entirely.

"This is not a leadership problem, it's economic" he said. "We (remain) supportive of the speaker."

"Congressmen are never satisfied," said Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez, adding that he felt Boncodin's explanations were satisfactory. "You cannot squeeze blood from stone," he said.

Probe urged of Revilla's Pajero

IT IS "both the duty and responsibility" of the Senate committee on ethics to motu propio (on its own) order an investigation of Sen. Ramon Revilla's possession of a Mitsubishi Pajero that was earlier reported missing by the Department of Public Works and Highways .

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara yesteday implored Senate committee on ethics chair Francis Pangilinan not to wait for a formal complaint because it was a fact on record that Revilla admitted the vehicle was with him.

Revilla chairs the Senate committee on public works, which is currently investigating the P139-million vehicle repair scam at the DPWH.

Pangilinan acknowledged that his committee could initiate a probe without a formal complaint. But, he said, "If we are to believe news reports, there is one forthcoming and so we are waiting."

Should no such complaint be filed, Pangilinan said, "That's when the committee would start looking into the news reports (of Revilla's admission)."*Rocky Nazareno*

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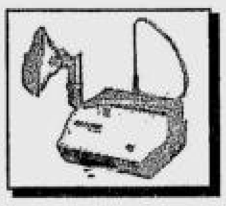
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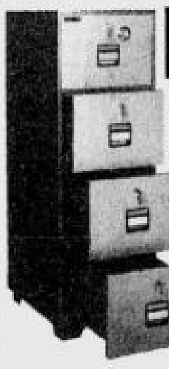
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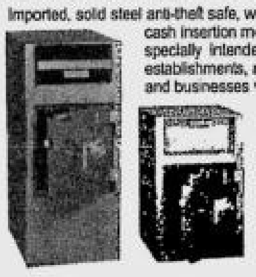

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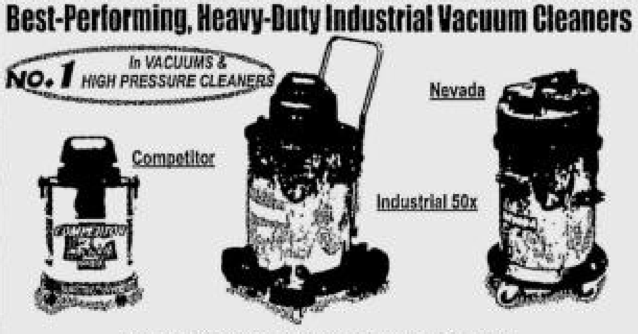

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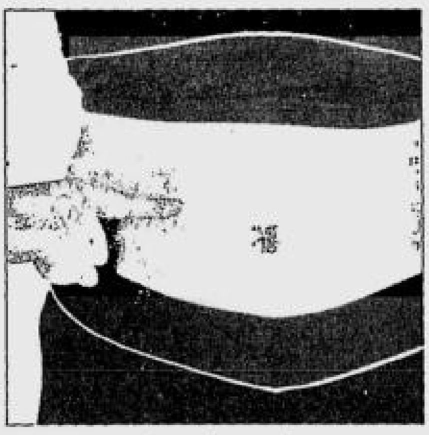
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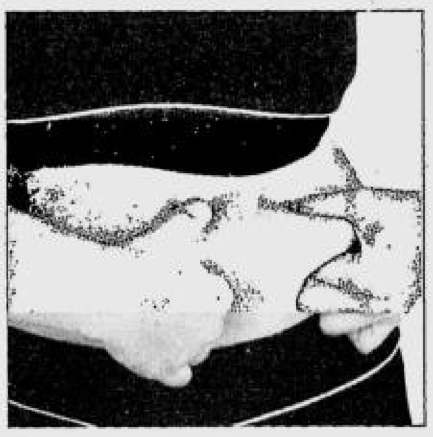
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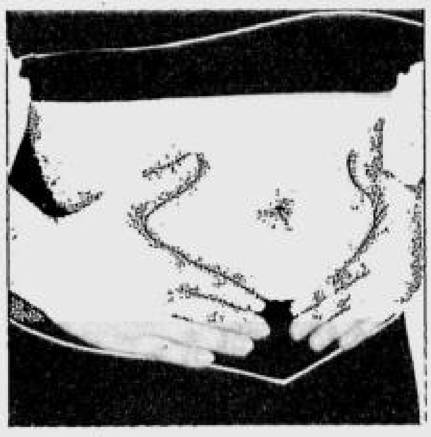
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Davide scores Palace for meddling in JBC

By Michael Lim Ubac

"NO WAY."

A defiant Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. warned Malacañang yesterday to lay off the Judicial and Bar Council's (JBC) list of nominees for the two vacant Supreme Court seats.

"In no way—for as long as I am its chairman—would the council allow a reopening (of the list)," Davide said.

Davide told TV hosts Randy David and Katrina Legarda of ABS-CBN's "Off the Record" on Sunday night that the Palace could not impose its will on the judiciary, particularly the JBC.

The Chief Justice was reacting to reports that President Macapagal-Arroyo had exerted pressure on the council—which screens and nominates replacements for vacancies in the judiciary—to change the list forwarded to her on Aug. 14.

Reports said Ms Macapagal, through presidential legal counsel Avelino Cruz, asked the JBC to include the name of Adolf Azcuna, former President Corazon Aquino's legal counsel. Azcuna is said to also have the backing of ex-President Fidel Ramos.

Aquino said that while she believed in Azcuna's competence, she wasn't lobbying for him.

But sources in the legal profession said President Macapagal had assured Ms Aquino of Azcuna's inclusion when the two met during the 19th death anniversary of former senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino.

The Chief Justice categorically declared that President Macapagal could not appoint to the high court anyone who was not on the JBC list.

"And she cannot just add a name," Davide said.

Anyone the President wants to appoint should first seek nomination by the council, he said. And after the JBC had voted and submitted a list, it could not allow a reopening.

Davide's vigorous protestation might have prompted Palace officials—including Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, chief presidential legal adviser Avelino Cruz and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez—to cancel a scheduled meeting with him yesterday.

Two weeks ago, the JBC submitted its list of nine nominees, from which the President is to pick replacements for retired Associate Justices Jose A.R. Melo and Sabino de Leon.

Included in the short list were Court of Appeals Associate Justices Romeo Callejo, Conchita-Carpio Morales, Delilah Magtolis and Ruben Reyes, and CA Presiding Justice Cancio Garcia.

Nominees from the academe included Raul Pangalangan and Ruben Balane of the University of the Philippines College of Law. Completing the list were Sandiganbayan 1st division acting chair Gregory Ong and lawyer Loreto Ata.

Azcuna reportedly got only three votes during the secret balloting early this month, attended by seven of the powerful council's eight members. To be included in the list, an applicant should get at least four votes.

Under the law, Ms Macapagal has six weeks to act on the JBC recommendation. Malacañang said it would definitely not interfere in the selection process because, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye explained, "The JBC is an independent Constitutional body." ***With Norman Bordadora and Dona Pazzibugan***

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN. As part of its commitment to preserve the environment, the Philippine Daily Inquirer has again joined forces with World Wildlife Philippines in an information and fund-raising campaign titled "Environment Fund for Legal Action." The fund aims to pursue legal action against those caught violating the environment like poachers and illegal fishers. Signing the memorandum of agreement are WWF-Phils. vice chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II and Inquirer president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, second and third from left, respectively, with INQUIRER Corporate Relations Manager Celine Madamba and WWF-Phils. president Lorenzo Tan witnessing.

In Canada, the nanny is Pinoy

DAVAO CITY—Canadians love Filipino caregivers.

Canadian Ambassador Robert Collette said that since the caregiver program in his country started, not a single case of maltreatment of children by their Filipino nannies has been recorded.

"They are behaving well. They are making Canadian parents very happy because Filipinos are well trained, warm, conscious to care and love children," Collette said.

He said that because of these qualities, Canadian parents had asked that the caregiver program involving Filipinos be continued.

"I can say I have never heard of anyone who was not happy with their Filipino caregivers. That is why the program is successful and we wanted it to continue," Collette told reporters here.

Collette, who was in this city Friday to lead in the local celebration of Canada Day, confirmed the Canadian government has decided to continue with the caregiver program.

"We've had a caregiver program as part of our immigration program with the Philippines for a number of years. I myself was a beneficiary of it when we had a caregiver from (this country) who came to work for us in 1991. She is now a Canadian citizen and a successful businesswoman," Collette said.

He said that because of Canada's willingness to take in immigrants under the caregiver program, the number of Filipinos moving to his country has been growing steadily. Today, there are more than 400,000 Filipinos living in Canada.

Aside from providing care for Canadian children, Collette said Filipino caregivers also assist the elderly.

He said Filipino workers in Canada have been provided with a solid social working environment, including job protection and good offers.

Collette said that to enhance the Filipinos' qualities as caregivers, the Canadian government is working with the Philippines' Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA). ***Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Petron, Caltex hike LPG prices

By Abigail L. Ho

HOT ON the heels of Pilipinas Shell's price increase, major oil players Caltex Phil. and Petron Corp. raised yesterday the price of their liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by P8.80 per cylinder, or 80 centavos per kilogram.

Effective midnight last night, the new prices for Caltex's Starflame and Petron's Gasul ranged from P238 to P253 per 11-kilo tank.

In a statement, Caltex said the increase was merely its response to "market and competitive conditions."

Petron cited the steady climb in the international contract price of LPG as its main reason for raising prices, but emphasized the price hike was still lower than world market conditions dictated.

"While the contract price of LPG has increased by more than P1.50 per kilo, we will only be adjusting our prices by 80 centavos per kilogram," Petron spokesperson Virginia Ruivivar said.

On Saturday, Shell was the first to announce an increase of the same rate, citing the increase in international contract prices (ICP) as the main reason.

"The increase in ICP was prompted by the higher than normal demand in the region, especially from Japan. Over the past four months, the ICP has increased by $34 per ton, equivalent to P1.50 per kilo," said Shell's general manager for external affairs Robert Kanapi.

Consumer Oil Price Watch chair Raul Concepcion said local LPG prices were no longer dictated by the Big Three oil firms as around 65 percent of the country's requirements were sourced from abroad.

But militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan insisted the Big Three should not have subjected the public to yet another burden.

Bayan spokesperson Renato Reyes said the recent decline in the purchased power adjustment (PPA) rate charged electricity consumers will just be offset by the increase in LPG prices and another round of oil price hikes.

GMA cancels European trip

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo canceled last night her trip to Europe set for next month, saying she could not leave the country just yet.

"While I firmly believe in the importance of personally carrying the message of investment to other countries, as President my priority is where I am needed most," Ms Macapagal said in a statement.

"There have been a number of developments in the fiscal and peace and order fronts that require my continued stewardship," she said.

She mentioned the tax collection shortfall, the appointment of a new revenue commissioner and the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf as among these developments.

Ms Macapagal said, however, that she was only postponing her visit.

"I look forward to meeting our European friends at a later date," she said.

The President was supposed to visit Spain on invitation of the Spanish king, Italy to meet with Pope John Paul II, and Denmark to attend an Asia-Europe Meeting. ***Dona Z. Pazzibugan***

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AQUINO ASSASSINATION

Enrile says he's willing to reveal all

By Norman Bordadora

FORMER senator and Marcos defense minister Juan Ponce Enrile is willing to testify in any tribunal that would be tasked to unmask the mastermind behind the 1983 assassination of martyred opposition politician Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, Jr.

But any panel probing the 19-year-old murder case must know what to ask to get anything substantial from him, warned the lawyer who is alleged to have been the author of the martial law rule of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"I will testify if I get invited (and) I will respond to their questions if I know the answers," Enrile said at the weekly Kapihan sa Manila Hotel yesterday.

Asked about the extent of his knowledge of the plot to kill Aquino and the events following the assassination, Enrile said he would rather not reveal such information at this time.

"I cannot do that," he said.

Enrile was the defense minister at the time of the Aquino assassination.

Aquino was fatally shot at the tarmac of the Manila International Airport on Aug. 21, 1983 while returning from exile in the United States.

A man that the authorities presented as the alleged assassin, Rolando Galman, was immediately killed by airport security men.

Enrile said he also welcomed the decision of former President Fidel Ramos to testify on everything that he knew about the killing of Aquino and Galman.

"It is good (that Ramos decided to do so). It would be good for him to testify," Enrile said.

Ramos was the chief of the Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police at the time of the assassination.

In a privilege speech on Aug. 21, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel dared Ramos to tell the people everything he knew of the plot to kill Aquino.

In response to Pimentel's challenge, Ramos said last Sunday that he was willing to face any tribunal formed to re-investigate the case.

Enrile and Ramos broke away from Marcos in February 1986, triggering the first people power revolution that brought down the dictator.

Aquino's widow, Corazon Aquino, whom many believed had won the Feb. 7, 1986 snap presidential polls, was installed as President.

At the Manila Hotel forum, Enrile said the country was worse off now than it was during the period that preceded Martial Law.

Villar: DFA to blame for passport syndicates

By Rocky Nazareno

SYNDICATES at the Department of Foreign Affairs have been preying on overseas Filipino workers who pay at least P8,000 for a bogus passport and P2,500 for the speedy release of a valid travel document.

This came out at a hearing of the Senate committee on foreign relations on the proposed amendments to the 1996 Passport Act. "We have to dismantle these syndicates because their biggest victims are our OFWs who, right on their first step to seek jobs abroad, are already victimized," said Sen. Manuel Villar, the committee chair.

Villar blamed the DFA for allowing the syndicates to thrive by "deliberately slowing down and complicating the process" of acquiring legitimate passports.

Villar noted that eradicating the fake-passport syndicates and fixers at the DFA "can be undertaken immediately even while the deliberations on the amendments to the Passport Act are going on."

"This can be done even beyond the legislative work and we can make things happen if we have the political will to do it," he said.

Annette Feliciano, president of the Philippine Travel Agencies Association (PTAA), told the Senate hearing that applicants unwilling to undergo the long wait for their passports pay from P2,000 to P3,000 to have their travel documents released within three days.

The PTAA debunked claims by the DFA that passport applicants need only wait three days, and pay P750, for the processing of passports through the express lane.

The normal processing period for a passport, for a fee of P500, was 10 days, DFA officials claimed.

The PTAA said it actually took from two to three weeks.

Victor Fernandez, president of the Philippine Association of Service Exporters Inc. (PASEI), revealed that fake passports could go for as low as P8,000 and as much as P10,000 "for those who are just coming in from the provinces."

Leslie Baja, a passport division officer, testified that in Metro Manila alone, an estimated 500 passports a month are found to be fake, either because they were issued under an "assumed identity" or had been physically tampered with.

DFA Assistant Secretary Estrella Berenguel said the same estimate was given by the DFA's 10 consular offices nationwide.

"That's about 12,000 passports every year," Villar noted.

Berenguel said economics was the main reason for the presence of such a large number of fake passports.

For instance, an OFW wanting to work in Taiwan, which allows an OFW to work there for only three years, would resort to changing his or her passport, she said.

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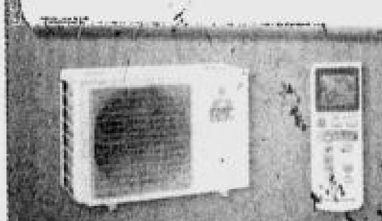

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Pope visit to Manila in January canceled

From page A1

ticipants an incentive for fresh enthusiasm in bearing witness to the Gospel's teaching about life," Villegas added.

He also called for prayers for the Pope's health and well-being.

Every 3 years

The world meeting focusing on family values is held every three years. The 2003 session in Manila will mark the first time that Asia will host the event.

The Pontiff had been expected to officiate at a Mass at the Rizal Park to mark the end of the conference.

Henrietta de Villa, executive director of the event, said the news came just when organizers were starting to be optimistic about the Pope's coming, given his recent trips to Canada, Guatemala and Mexico.

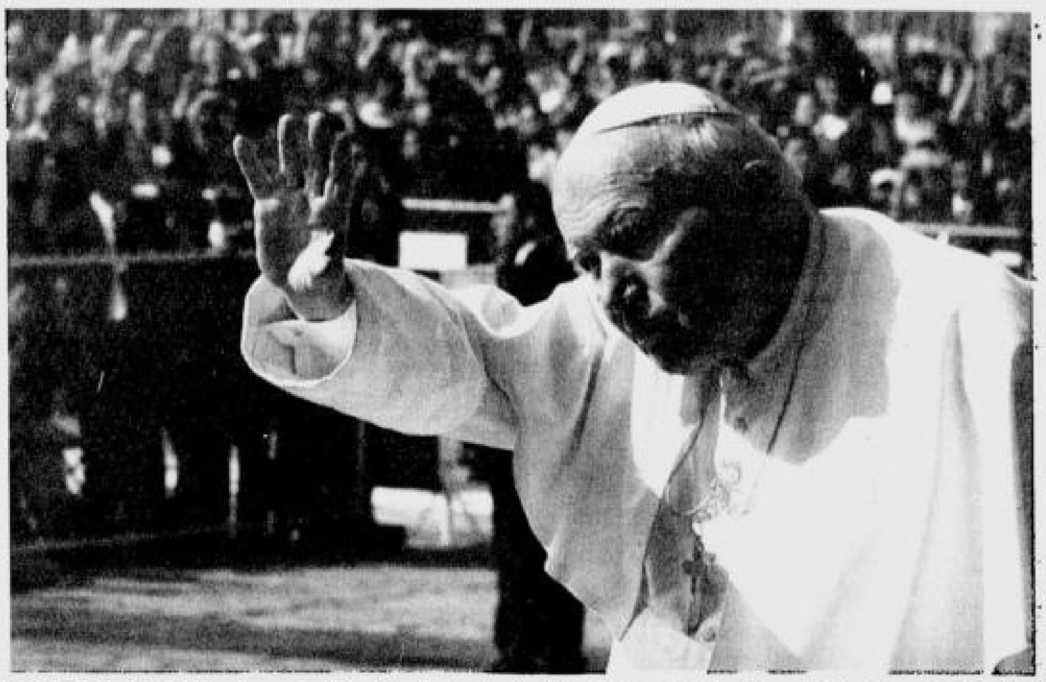
She said organizers had been hoping to double the 5-million attendance at the 1995 World Youth Congress in Manila, at which the Pope was present.

De Villa admitted that with the Pope's absence, the projected numbers for the January conference could dwindle.

But she gave the assurance that preparations were in full swing, with 1,500 foreign delegates already booked at hotels.

She also said they would not pressure the Pope into making the trip. "Why should we burden the Holy Father?" she told reporters. "Now is the time to show our solidarity and sentimental commitment to him and not make things difficult for him."

Jopson likewise said attendance could "probably" drop. But he said the Pope could still be present at the event, "even on video." *With a report from AP*



POPE John Paul II is shown in this file photo during his visit to the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City on July 31. The ailing 82-year-old Pontiff has canceled his January 2003 journey to the Philippines.

AP

Alma . . .

From page A1

the man whose claims to fame now include having been Kris Aquino's boyfriend.

"Whatever Joey says that is damaging to me is also damaging to our kids," Moreno said in Filipino in an exclusive interview yesterday at The Peninsula Manila. "I just hope he thinks of our children every time he speaks."

She said she was deeply hurt when Marquez publicly spoke of his regrets at having married her.

The anguished words emerged as though from a movie/TV script: "It was so painful. I loved him for the past 12 years. If he is sorry he married me, that means he also regrets having children with me."

All four of the couple's children—Yeoj, Win-win, Vittorio Joey and Em-em—are staying with Moreno.

Their mother said they saw and heard their father talk about his regrets on television.

But she was not about to disclose their sentiments. "He might say I'm just making it all up," she said. "I don't want to come out as *nagpapaawa* (seeking pity)."

"As a mother, I sense the pain that my children are feeling," she added. "I always remind them that no matter what happens, their father still loves them."

No strategy

And no, the breakup of their marriage was not simply a matter of political strategy, Moreno said.

Reports had earlier quoted Marquez's executive assistant for legal affairs, Patricio Asoy, as saying that Moreno was herself aiming for the post that the mayor would vacate after serving his third term.

Asoy had said the breakup would work well for the political careers of both Moreno and the mayor, who is rumored as planning to run in the 2004 senatorial election.

But Moreno said: "My whole family was dragged into this. I think it's too much to say that this is merely a political gimmick."

Moreno was rumored to have had an affair with Julian Say, a Cebu City-based executive and disc jockey of the Nation Broadcasting Corp., but she has denied this.

Last March, Marquez filed for the annulment of the marriage.

Early this month, at the peak of the controversy generated by his romance with Kris Aquino, he filed a 15-page petition urging Judge Helen Ricafort to dissolve his marriage.

MORENO ROMY HOMILLADA

He said Moreno was psychologically incapable of performing her marital obligations because of her lavish spending and alleged affair with Say.

Marquez also announced plans to present four of his estranged wife's aides, as well as plane tickets, airline manifests, hotel bills and a videotape that would supposedly prove the extramarital affair.

His lawyer, former Solicitor General Frank Chavez, said Moreno emptied a savings account containing P1 million and spent $11,000 in a shopping spree using Marquez's credit card.

Chavez also said Moreno bought a house for Say in Lahug, Cebu, and gave him a car.

To this, Moreno flung a challenge: "*Patunayan nila* (Let them prove it)."

Nothing to explain

Moreno said she did not want to discuss the issues on TV or in print and would only answer all the allegations in court.

Her lawyer, Ellen Veza, said: "We want to be professional about the whole thing. Let's leave it to the court."

Veza also said she had instructed her client to refrain from talking about the case.

"We have to respect the judicial process," she said. "Any lawyer would know that you're not supposed to discuss the case."

The lawyer also said the other camp had yet to present Say, the supposed paramour, in court, and so her client could not address that particular issue. "We don't know exactly what the person is going to say," Veza said.

And the saga continues . . .

Why did Marohombsar have slash on neck?

From page A1

composed of members of Aktafp and the PNP Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer), which was deployed to Magallanes to rescue a 4-year-old child and her nanny supposedly kidnapped by Marohombsar and his group.

But Marohombsar's father Abusama, a former councilor of Malabang, Lanao del Sur, denied that his son was involved in the abduction.

"He could not do that because he had plans of surrendering, and besides he was being hunted by the police and military," Abusama said.

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla said that while Marohombsar might have shot it out with the rescue team, he seriously doubted whether the lawmen used all available means to ensure that the kidnap leader was captured alive.

"(He) had said many times over that he was prepared to surrender," the opposition lawmaker noted. "And while he does not deserve any sympathy for turning to criminal activities, his death has rubbed out any chance for us to find out the truth about him and the Pentagon gang."

Marohombsar, who escaped along with two other Pentagon members from their Camp Crame detention center on June 19, was known to be negotiating his surrender a few weeks ago.

Remulla noted that Marohombsar was apparently prepared to turn himself in, as indicated by the safe-conduct pass issued by Maj. Alberto Braganza and his managing to return to Luzon after hiding in Cotabato.

The congressman also noted that Marohombsar had exposed the involvement of some police officials in kidnapping. He said the killing, as well as Marohombsar's escape from prison, could have been stage-managed to protect these officials.

'Butcher'

President Macapagal-Arroyo traveled Sunday to Magallanes, where she viewed Marohombsar's remains and praised the lawmen for killing him and rescuing his captives.

"There was no need for her to go to the site and there pontificate about how crime does not pay," Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran said yesterday in a statement. "It's appalling that a President should sink so low as to crow about the killing of a criminal syndicate head and to say that the public should see Marohombsar's earthly remains."

The party-list representative said the President should change her nickname from "Ate (big sister) Glo" and "Gloria labandera (washerwoman)" to "Gloria matadera (butcher)."

He also said that while Marohombsar was a criminal, the corpse should have been "accorded respect, and not laid out like some feast for flies or a prop for President Macapagal-Arroyo to use in her crusade."

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., chief of the Philippine National Police, also sought to quash speculation that Marohombsar was killed in a rubout.

Ebdane said the lawmen were able to pinpoint the kidnappers' safehouse in Magallanes based on a tip from an informant.

"The area was sealed on Saturday night," he said in an interview with GMA-7. "The next day, the operatives pinpointed the safehouse. The kidnappers tried to escape but they were blocked by members of the Aktafp."

Teresita Ang-See of the Citizens' Action Against Crime said that she spoke with Aktafp's Madayag in Camp Crame after the operation and that she believed his story.

"If there was a rubout, all the suspects should have been arrested and killed," Ang-See said. "How come three others managed to escape? It doesn't make sense."

Besides, she added, the family of the kidnapped child was not even aware of a rescue operation by authorities.

Assistance

Marohombsar's relatives have sought government assistance in transporting his body to his native town of Malabang.

Silvino Cinches, director of the National Bureau of Investigation in Central Mindanao, said Marohombsar's cousin-in-law Macacana Lucman, a retired police senior superintendent, had been assigned to arrange the air transport of the body from Manila to Cotabato City preparatory to the trip to Malabang by land.

Marohombsar's uncle, Subair Marohomsalic, legal officer of the Office on Muslim Affairs based in General Santos City, said it would be good for the government to facilitate the transport of the body.

Relatives are planning an Islamic burial ceremony for Marohombsar.

Cinches said Norberto Gonzales, the President's adviser on special concerns, was willing to grant the family's request.

The NBI officer also said the bureau, which had been secretly negotiating with Marohombsar for his surrender, could have taken the Pentagon leader alive had he not changed his plans at the last minute.

Cinches refused to elaborate beyond saying that Marohombsar asked that the government provide him and other Pentagon members and their families "financial assistance."

"We were expecting him to yield peacefully," Cinches said.

Marohombsar had been implicated in a string of abductions, including that of four Chinese engineers involved in the construction of a P2-billion irrigation project in Carmen, Cotabato, and of a doctor from Parang, Maguindanao.

He had an altercation with Moro Islamic Liberation Front spokesperson Eid Kabalu, who announced on radio that the MILF central committee had issued a "shoot-to-kill order" on the Pentagon leader.

Kabalu had said the warning to get Marohombsar dead or alive was a manifestation of his group's sincerity in abiding with a government-MILF agreement authorizing the secessionist rebels to arrest criminals taking refuge in their areas.

The MILF had suspected Marohombsar to have military and police connections.

In an interview with radio station dxMS three days after his escape from Camp Crame, Marohombsar said the MILF threat was nothing but hot air.

He dared Kabalu to meet him face-to-face in Lanao, saying: "If you are really brave, come and get me. You know where I am."

Asked yesterday whether the MILF had a hand in the death of Marohombsar, Cinches said: "A group of concerned Muslims helped in neutralizing the kidnap gang leader."

But he did not name them.

Alonto

Marohombsar may be dead, but the Pentagon group cannot be stricken off the PNP watch list yet, because its other leader, Tahir Alonto, remains scot-free, Ebdane said.

According to the PNP chief, the elusive Alonto has been hiding all these years in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"He just roams the Pagalungan and Datu Paglas areas," he said, adding that the PNP was now depending on the MILF to get him.

"We have coordination with the MILF hierarchy," he said. "They promised that they would get him. I hope that they will be true to their word. I believe that they can discipline people in their areas, even those who do not belong to their group."

Alonto is a nephew of MILF military affairs chief Al Haj Murad and former operations and planning officer of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces, according to police records.

He, together with three others, was arrested for the kidnapping of one Doctor Cavalida in Digos, Davao del Sur, in August 1999. In November 2000, he and 67 inmates were rescued by 80 MILF members from the General Santos City jail.

But contrary to Ebdane's claim, a regional police director said authorities had not called off the manhunt for Alonto despite the MILF leaders' offer to arrest him.

"He remains one of the targets of military and police operations," the official, who asked not to be named, said in a phone interview. "He's still active. We're now closely watching his movements. We may catch up with him someday. His world is getting smaller by the day."

Deportees arrive, need medical aid

From page A1

jail and up to six strokes of the cane for those convicted.

In the mad rush out of Sabah through illegal fishing boats, at least eight Filipino babies have reportedly died while awaiting deportation or during their perilous journey across the porous maritime border with Malaysia.

Ople directive

In Manila, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople ordered Philippine consulate teams in Sabah, Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga City to keep the sick among the deportees from going through actual repatriation.

"The DFA teams should examine even more closely the state of health of the would-be travelers even with the great number of those who are being processed," Ople said in a statement.

Malaysian Ambassador to Manila Taufik Mohamed Noor said Kuala Lumpur was coordinating closely with the Philippine consulate teams in Sabah to ensure "orderly departure" and "prevent any possibility of the illegals being abused or ill-treated.

"It is regrettable but this is one of the plights of illegals because they are too scared to seek treatment for fear of being arrested," Taufik said.

"If they are sick, Filipino consular officials should tell Malaysian officials not to put them on the boat," he added.

The consulate teams, especially the one in Bongao, have sent out a call for help.

FILIPINO deportees await medical attention in Mapun, Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi.

JOAN ORENDAIN

"Many returnees need basic medicine for cough and colds, vitamins and antibiotics to supplement what the government is able to supply at present," Ople said.

"(The physical examination) must be particularly (stringent) with children who, not surprisingly, are not as able as their elders are in expressing themselves concerning the extent of their physical discomfort," he added.

Ople reminded the consulate teams to immediately make representations with Malaysian authorities whenever anyone is stricken ill among the repatriates and that the women and children "should be accorded extra care to the utmost extent possible."

More coming

The newly arrived deportees were brought to relocation and processing centers in Bongao before they were sent to their places of origin.

Another batch of about the same number is expected to arrive in Tawi-Tawi tomorrow, Commodore De Leon said.

The Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council immediately mobilized its Task Force Deportees, in coordination with the provincial government, to attend to the needs of the deportees coming from Tawi-Tawi, Sulu and Basilan.

Since February, about 64,000 Filipinos have left Sabah and an estimated 4,000 more are still waiting to be deported.

A total of more than 300,000 illegal workers, mainly from Indonesia, went home under a fourth-month amnesty ahead of the introduction of new laws on Aug. 1.

Following an appeal from Manila, Kuala Lumpur agreed to extend the deadline to Aug. 24 for returning Filipino illegals.

Philippine officials say the "back-door entry" of Filipino returnees is stretching the limited resources of local authorities of Zamboanga City and the Tawi-Tawi island chain.

"It is a serious problem which deserves national attention," opposition Rep. Celso Lobregat (Zamboanga City) said.

Unaccounted

Some 60,000 Filipino illegals from Malaysia had reportedly entered Zamboanga in recent weeks, "but I don't know how to account for and where to look for them because they have come in through the back door," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has been asked to adopt a "coordinated approach" to overcome the boat people problem, which Lobregat said had tremendous social implications in the country's south, already troubled by kidnappings and decades of Moro revolts.

"This really needs a national policy and a coordinated effort because you have so many departments, agencies, bureaus and offices of governments involved—those dealing with foreign affairs, immigration, quarantine, defense, social welfare, health, labor, the Coast Guard, the Navy and the military," he explained.

"Imagine, if there are 300,000 illegal Filipino immigrants now in Malaysia—that is half the population of Zamboanga City.

"If all of them come to Zamboanga, you'll have housing, unemployment, security, health and all kinds of problems," said Lobregat, whose mother is the city mayor.

It is estimated that up to half a million Filipinos live in Sabah, some of them refugees from a Moro separatist rebellion in Mindanao in the 1970s, when Malaysia allegedly backed the bid for a separate Islamic state there. ***Reports from Rolly San Juan, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Norman Bordadora in Manila; and AFP***

Tancangco allies working to retract impeach complaint

By Blanche S. Rivera

COMELEC Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco has found allies in the House of Representatives who are reportedly doing the rounds to convince signatories to the impeachment complaint against her to withdraw their signatures.

As a result, five congressmen have retracted their endorsements of the impeachment complaint. Tancangco was charged with betrayal of the public trust and gross negligence of duty.

Bohol Representatives Eladio Jala and Roberto Cajes and Cebu Representatives Antonio Yapha and Nerissa Soon-Ruiz withdrew their signatures soon after the complaint was filed.

Western Samar Rep. Reynaldo Uy retracted his endorsement on June 17. The impeachment complaint, sponsored by Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella, was filed on Aug. 6 with the House committee on justice.

"The pressure is definitely on. There are some sectors in Congress that are trying to convince signatories to withdraw," said Puentevella in a phone interview.

Jala, in a letter to House secretary general Roberto Nazareno dated Aug. 6, said the impeachment complaint was "unnecessary" since Tancangco's term will expire in February 2004.

But Puentevella said Congress could complete the impeachment process long before that time, adding that the House could be done with deliberations by the end of the year.

The first round of deliberations on the impeachment complaint at the House committee on justice is on Sept. 4.

"The point is that from now until February 2004, (Tancangco) could still make a difference in the Comelec," Puentevella said.

Puentevella cited the Comelec resolution allowing a majority of four commissioners to hold an en banc session and promulgate resolutions even without the chairman. This, he said, would allow Tancangco and the three other commissioners allied with her to decide "ticklish issues" on their own.

The impeachment complaint now has only 61 signatories. It takes 72 signatures to forward the complaint to the Senate for trial.

Puentevella said he saw no problem with obtaining more signatures to replace those withdrawn, adding that many more congressmen had wanted to sign the complaint after it was filed.

NBI widens Landbank probe to include taxpayers

By Philip C. Tubeza

SHOULD the taxpayers who paid the P432 million that was diverted to fake Landbank accounts have to pay the millions in taxes yet again?

This is one of the questions National Bureau of Investigation agents will try to answer after they subpoenaed the tax documents of the big companies.

An NBI agent, who requested anonymity, said the bureau is trying to determine if these companies, which include multinationals, did pay their taxes.

The source identified the firms as Nissan Phils., Honda Phils., Prumerica, Dow Chemicals Phils, GMA Network, Matsushita Phils., Sumisetsu Phils., Pilipinas Makro and Lorenzo Shipping.

He said some of the companies' tax documents, including tax receipts, presented to the NBI showed they had paid their taxes to the Bureau of Internal Revenue through the Landbank Binangonan (Rizal) branch.

But Landbank records showed the tax payments never reached the bank.

While a Landbank special audit found that the tax payments had been diverted to four fraudulent accounts in the bank, the NBI wants to determine if all the payments ended up in those accounts or if they ended up somewhere else, the investigator said.

The question would be resolved once all the tax documents are submitted and the companies' employees are interviewed, he added.

The four fraudulent accounts at Landbank Binangonan were opened under the names Alma Clemente, Joven Aquino, Robert Lucero and Jose Francisco.

The investigator also said that besides probing the Landbank accounts, the NBI will also investigate the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Philippine National Bank with the approval of the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

The DBP and PNB are also allowed to receive tax payments.

"We have a witness who said the (companies used to) make their tax payments to the DBP before they switched to Landbank Binangonan," the source said.

The NBI has identified the man who opened the fraudulent Aquino account. The man gave his address as Cohaladalig, Cardona, Rizal but NBI agents are still checking this.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, August 27, 2002
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: **2 Thes 2:1-3, 14-17**
Gospel: **Mt 23:23-26**

Jesus said, "Woe to you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You do not forget the mint, anise and cumin seeds when you pay the tenth of everything, but then you forget what is most fundamental in the Law: justice, mercy and faith. These you must practice, without neglecting the others. Blind guides! You strain out a mosquito, but swallow a camel.

Woe to you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You fill the plate and the cup with theft and violence, and then pronounce a blessing over them. Blind Pharisee! Purify the inside first, then the outside too will be purified."

Commentary

Justice, mercy, and faith are for Jesus the most important things of the law. It is strange that faith is ranked third place. The Gospel is talking first of justice and mercy, two virtues that speak to us about our relationship with the rest of humanity. Couldn't it be that the relationship with God passes necessarily through the relationship with our brothers and sisters? We can't call God directly by phone. Our call has always to pass through the switchboard where all people are connected. If we are not successful in justice and mercy, it is a sign that our faith is weak.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LABOR LAW (LABOR RELATIONS LAW)—Requisites for valid dismissal of employee—The requisites for valid dismissal are: (a) the emaployee must be afforded due process, i.e., he must be given an opportunity to be heard and to defend himself; and (b) the dismissal must be for a valid cause as provided in Article 282 of the Labor Code or for any of the authorized causes under Articles 283 and 284 of the same Code. Anent the first requisite, the employer must furnish the employee with 2 written notices: (a) a written notice containing a statement of the cause for the termination to afford the employee ample opportunity to be heard and defend himself with the assistance of his representative, if he so desires; and (b) if the employer decides to terminate the services of the employee, the employer must notify him in writing of the decision to dismiss him, stating clearly the reasons therefor. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Bellosillo, National Bookstore, Inc. v. Court of Appeals Special Eighth Division, G. R. No. 146741, February 27, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

Global Competitiveness Part XII

DOWNSTREAM VS UPSTREAM INDUSTRIES TARIFF DIFFERENCES MUST BE A WIN-WIN SOLUTION

PHILIPPINE INDUSTRIES ARE NOT COMPETITIVE

Seventeen years ago, we called on government to address the factors to make Philippine Industries competitive. Otherwise, we would find it increasingly difficult to compete as massive tariff cuts are effected.

The problems included high power cost, high interest rates, peace and order, government bureaucracy, inflexible and militant labor, poor transport, shipping, and other infrastructure. We have made progress but not enough.

As a result, Philippine Industries have remained uncompetitive with manufacturers in ASEAN and with the rest of Asia. Our Industries are even less competitive today.

DOWNSTREAM INDUSTRIES ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE COUNTRY

These manufacturers of semi-finished and finished or end-products contribute to the vitality and dynamism of the economy. They are looking forward to the reduction of the AFTA Tariff rates to 5% next year and the MFN rates to 5% on January 2, 2004, to allow them to bring down their raw material costs, thus, be able to compete with finished goods imports.

TARIFF PROTECTION REQUESTED BY UPSTREAM AND MIDSTREAM INDUSTRIES

These are the producers of petrochemical plastic resins, steel and aluminum who filed a petition requesting for Tariff rate increases as follows:

1. **Steel Products (NSC)** - double the MFN Tariff rates from 5% to 10%
2. **Aluminum (Reynolds)** - quadruple the MFN rates from 5% to 20% on aluminum foil
3. **Petrochemical Plastic Resins (APM)** - Triple the AFTA rates from 5% to 15% next year and increase MFN rates six-fold from 5% to 30% in January, 2004 for eight years without a commitment when the Naptha Cracker Plant will be established.

RATIONALE: WHY THE PETITION OF THE UPSTREAM INDUSTRIES IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF THE DOWNSTREAM INDUSTRIES AND THE CONSUMERS

1. If the petition is granted, it will be the biggest tariff distortion in the history of our 17-year Tariff Reduction Program that will ruin the Downstream Industries and encourage smuggling.
2. It will **force many of the Downstream Industries to close their plants** as they will not be able to compete because their raw material costs, which represent 10% to 40% of total material costs, will now go up instead of going down. They will end up being simply traders who will import finished products at a lower duty rate.
3. **It will affect the employment of 1,000 downstream plastic companies who are small and medium-sized enterprises and who employ more than 500,000 workers, as compared to the less than 10 upstream plastic companies employing less than 2,000 workers.**
4. The petrochemical industry in ASEAN countries is a mature industry. We missed the opportunity to establish the Naptha Cracker Plant twelve years ago when the Supreme Court denied the request of proponents to establish it in Batangas instead of in Bataan.
5. The Tariff Commission is not the proper venue for the industry to express its concerns on misdeclaration, smuggling and dumping. This should be addressed to the Bureau of Customs.

WIN-WIN SOLUTION FOR DESERVING UPSTREAM AND MIDSTREAM INDUSTRIES

For the Government to grant them **Universal Incentives** that will make them Globally Competitive, these are: accelerated depreciation, 12-year income tax holiday, NOLC, exemption from VAT, and long term borrowings at concessional rates, **but NOT Tariff Protection at the expense of the Downstream Industries and the Consumers.**

ALLIANCE OF CONCERNED
DOWNSTREAM INDUSTRIES

Raul Conce
RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Convenor

For comments or suggestions, call 844-8785, 812-6751 to 62; Fax: 818-6203
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Living on the edge

EDITORIAL

A DISASTER waiting to happen—that's what the spillway of Caliraya Lake is. The latest report about the spillway is that it has developed countless cracks.

Rogelio Lumague, retired manager of the National Power Corp.'s Caliraya-Botokan-Kalayaan power complex, told the INQUIRER's Tony Bergonia that the lake holds 86 million tons of water—the equivalent of about 15,000 Olympic-size swimming pool. Should the damaged spillway give way, it would release water at the rate of "one Olympic-size swimming per six seconds," he said. The water would flood about 15,000 houses in three Laguna towns with elevations lower than the lake. At about six persons per house, that means that the flooding, should it occur, could affect 80,000 people. It could drown most of them if the collapse of the spillway occurs without warning. Or if it occurs with some warning, people could save themselves but the flood could destroy their homes and farms and leave them without any means of livelihood.

After the cracks in the spillway were discovered in 1991, repairs were done once a year or once every two years. But four years ago the repairs stopped. One factor could be the expense—each repair costs the government P20 million. Another factor could be the fact that a new spillway is under construction. But land disputes are delaying the completion and the project has been suspended.

Meanwhile the typical Filipino "Bahala na" (Leave it to God) attitude seems to be prevailing. Communities at the foot of the dam don't seem to be concerned about the danger that the old, damaged spillway is posing to their lives. The government doesn't seem to care. If it cared it would be doing something now to remedy the problem.

The repair of the spillway stopped in 1998 when the CBK complex was turned over from Napocor to Industrias Metalurgicas Pescarmona Sociedad Anonima (Impsa) under a build-rehabilitate-operate-turn-over contract approved by the Philippine government, Lumague said. Under the contract, Impsa was supposed to build the new spillway within a year after the contract took effect, but land disputes are holding up the construction.

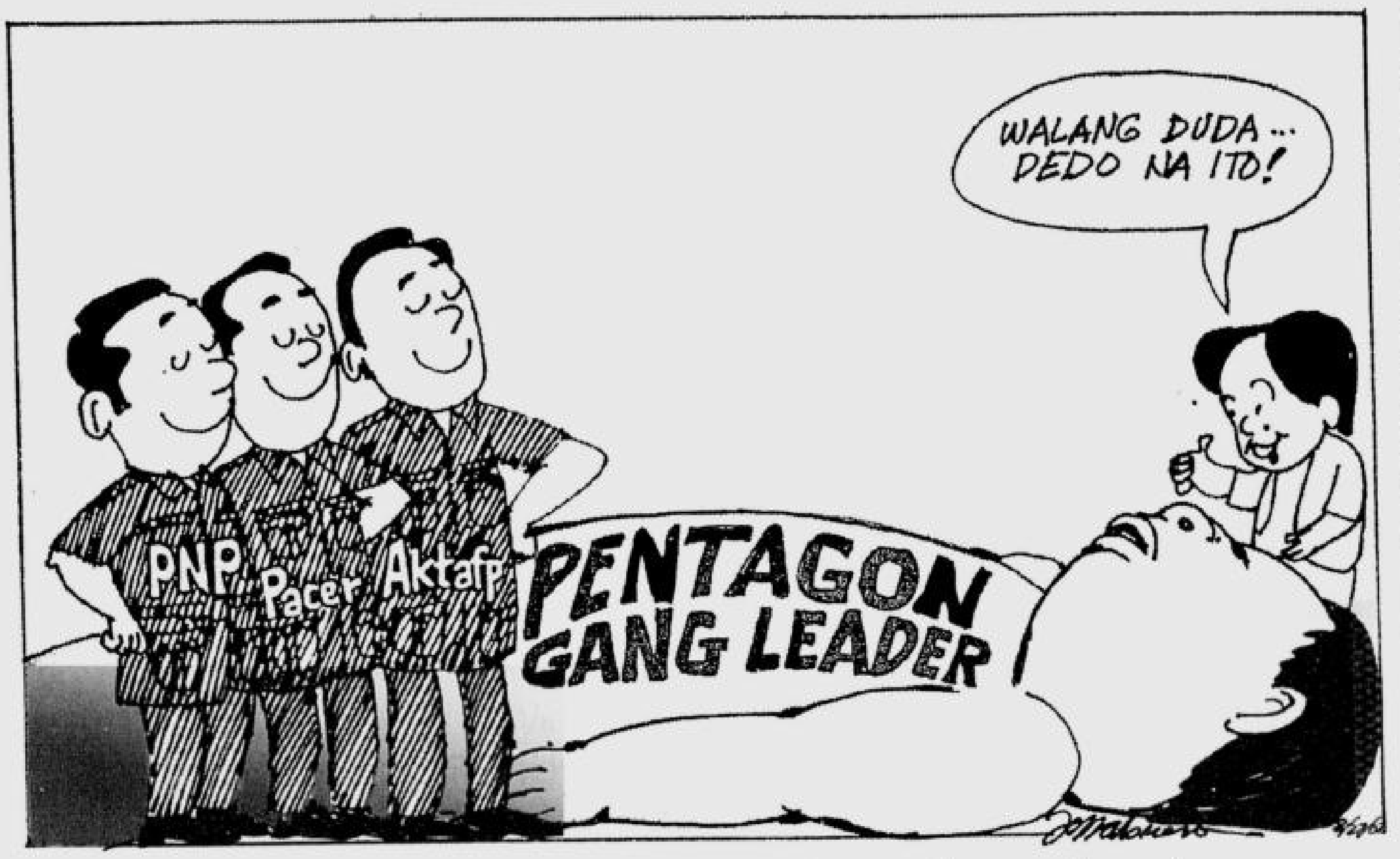
Meanwhile, the old spillway vibrates every time water flows down from the lake to run the generators that generate a maximum of 300 megawatts for the CBK complex. The increase in capacity from the original 32 to 300 MW has put even more stress on the spillway. On some days, it is said, the vibrations are so strong that they feel like a small earthquake.

Filipinos are a people who always seem to be living on the edge of danger. And they do not apparently give much value to human life. Hundreds, probably thousands of people have been killed in accidents involving "rolling coffins" that pass for buses, and yet people continue to pack these buses without concern for their very lives.

Thousands have died in sea disasters involving non-seaworthy vessels or ships that are crowded with passengers beyond their capacity. But after the dead have been buried and after the initial outcry over government and private sector negligence, everything is forgotten; non-seaworthy ships are allowed to sail, or ships are packed with people twice or even thrice their authorized capacity.

The same lack of concern seems to be prevailing in the case of the Caliraya spillway. Despite the cracks, despite the ominous vibrations, things seem to be working, so why worry? We'll cope with the accident—or probably with the disaster—when it happens. *Bahala na. "Panginoon na lamang ang nakakaalam* (Only God knows)," was what a retired Napocor worker said. But why leave everything to God when something can be done to prevent the occurrence of a disaster?

The government should intervene to hasten the resolution of the land disputes that are delaying the construction of the new spillway. In the meantime, there must be something in the law or in the contract that requires Impsa to repair the old, damaged spillway pending the completion of the new one.



Abu Sabaya is more alive than dead

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

GOVERNMENT officials have dared Fr. Cirilo Nacorda to produce Abu Sabaya if he is alive. By the same token, shouldn't government officials claiming that the Abu Sayyaf spokesperson is dead produce his corpse? Fair is fair. If Fr. Nacorda cannot produce Abu Sabaya alive, then we cannot accept that he is alive. But if the government cannot produce him dead, then we cannot accept that he is dead, either.

What is Fr. Nacorda's proof that Sabaya is alive? He said several witnesses saw Sabaya very much alive on several occasions in Basilan. What is the government's proof that he is dead? The claims of government soldiers who allegedly saw him being hit by gunshots and falling into the sea. Oh, and also President Macapagal-Arroyo said she saw a US hi-tech videotape of the battle off the coast of Zamboanga del Norte last June 21.

Let us examine these claims. They are both hearsay. Fr. Nacorda's witnesses saw Abu Sabaya in broad daylight not once but several times. The government witnesses saw him only once, in total darkness.

The soldiers said they rammed Sabaya's boat and saw him fall into the sea after he was allegedly riddled with bullets. The earlier story was that he was shot in the back abroad the boat after which he fell into the sea. Now which is which?

The chase and battle took place before dawn, in total darkness. There was no moonlight. So how were they able to recognize Sabaya in that blackness? Presumably, they had night-vision goggles borrowed from American soldiers.

But vision with those goggles is not the same as viewing a scene in daylight. It is more like seeing things in dim moonlight. It is impossible to recognize faces, especially at the distance between the soldiers and the bandits during the gunbattle. Besides, the soldiers said he was shot in the back. So how did they see his face? How did they recognize him? Was he wearing his signature sunglasses? Yes? He was wearing sunglasses in total darkness? But without his wraparound sunglasses, you can meet Sabaya in the street and not recognize him.

The President said she was shown the hi-tech footage of the battle taken by a US spy plane. According to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, Malacañang intends to borrow the tape and show it publicly "to prove once and for all that Abu Sabaya is dead."

I don't think it would. That tape is not a footage of television news. You see only shapes moving on the screen. Bunye himself said: "According to the President, these (were) heat images. (She could) see figures moving."

In other words, she didn't see faces, only moving figures and shapes. It was impossible to recognize anybody. (To have an idea of how it looks like—and also how scenes appear through the night-vision goggles—watch the Tom Clancy movie "Patriot Games" when it is shown again on TV, or borrow the videotape.) So how did she recognize Sabaya? Presumably he was identified by one of the soldiers or one of the Americans. But how did they themselves recognize him?

Even if there was indeed somebody who was shot and fell into the sea, it could have been anybody, not necessarily Sabaya. So how did they definitely establish that he was Sabaya? Did he shout, "Hey, you guys, I'm Abu Sabaya!" as he fell dying into the sea? Did he give them his calling card before he sank beneath the waves?

The military said his companions in the boat said it was Abu Sabaya. Of course, they would. With the military thinking he is dead, they would stop hunting their leader down, right? The soldiers wouldn't ordinarily trust these bandits with the time of day, but with regard to the identity of Sabaya, they take their words as gospel truth.

The military also produced personal belongs of Abu Sabaya as additional proof of his identity, giving the impression that they were recovered from the scene of the battle. The truth is, they were not. They were recovered in different places at different times. So they don't prove anything.

The only way to prove that the bandit leader is dead is to produce his corpse. But there is no corpse. Conveniently for the military, Sabaya fell into the sea. Why did his bloated corpse not surface? The current in that area is swift, they said. Still, a decomposing body should ordinarily be washed ashore somewhere. Perhaps he was eaten by sharks, they said. A convenient excuse, but not convincing.

Why did the President call off the search early? Did she know nothing would be found? Did she suspect it was all a charade?

It is easy to say that somebody is dead, but proving it is something else. There must be a corpus delicti. The chances that he is still alive are much greater than the chances of his being dead. That is why laws the world over mandate that without a corpus delicti, the state must wait seven years before a missing person can be presumed dead. Without his body, we cannot conclude that Abu Sabaya is really dead.

Come to think of it, it is not important whether Sabaya is dead or alive. What is important is to stop the depredations of the bandits once and for all. In the same way that it is not important whether the latest kidnapping was done by the Abu Sayyaf or by drug addicts, as Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes concluded. (I wonder how he knew that.) The important thing is to stop the kidnappings-by anybody.

Costs

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"CORRESPONDENTS" had a very interesting feature the other weekend. That was Avenida Rizal, once the proud hub of Greater Manila where all roads led to and which has become the sorry gutter of Metro Manila where all its dregs flow into.

The show first interviewed the owners, or managers, of what used to be flourishing establishments there, now turned dirty, dilapidated and fortified with heavy grills. All spoke of the glory years, and how the coming of the LRT, though a boon to commuters, blotted out the sun (literally) and brought darkness to their world. From them, the show turned its gaze on the denizens of Avenida, the nocturnal figures (even by day) who occupy its length and breadth day and night. These are the hawkers, hustlers, thieves, prostitutes and *istambays*, the people who exist at the pores of society. The dark, shadowy, fleeting figures you pass by in the sidewalks every day but never really see. Suddenly, they took on faces, mouths, and the aspect of mangled dreams.

I remember in particular one very old woman who sold cigarettes from a wooden box that she lugged around. She borrowed money from the neighborhood "Bombay," who was the only creditor human derelicts like her could turn to, and made a few bucks every day. She was known in the strip so the hoodlums didn't bother her. What she feared more were the cops, who took her wares during raids. When that happened, she and her two *apos* went hungry for days.

That is the face of poverty, etched out in stark relief. It made a strong impression on me because when I saw it, Bayani Fernando was threatening to pour gasoline on Metro Manila's sidewalks to rid them of obstacles. Those obstacles were now no longer just a jumble of cartons and boxes and makeshift stands spilling out into the streets, they took the form of flesh and blood, food and hunger, life and death.

I like what Fernando has done in Marikina. To turn a city that had become the rape capital of the country, if not the world, into a peaceful and prosperous one, that is no mean feat. I remember saying in an earlier column that he and Jesse Robredo, Naga city mayor and recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for governance some years ago, were showing that the way to the future lay in local initiatives. And I like what Fernando has done for the traffic in our area, and told him so in "Debate" a couple of weeks ago. A simple rerouting of traffic in the intersection between East Avenue, North Avenue, and Edsa has unclogged what used to be a daily nightmare during rush hour.

But his attempt to improve the flow of traffic elsewhere by obliterating the sidewalk vendors, indeed by the attention-grabbing method of setting their wares on fire, is thoroughly wrongheaded. And no amount of making lighthearted fun of it (I thought at first he was just trying to be cute, saying this utterly outrageous thing, but it turned out he was deathly serious) will make it better. Or more acceptable.

At the very least, as Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should know very well, being an economist, and the daughter of a president who was also an economist, and one moreover who wanted to be known as having pushed back poverty, having known its painful sting first-hand, that is not the way to push back poverty. All the anti-poverty literature says that any sign of entrepreneurship or initiative by the poor, even when it poses inconveniences to society, is to be encouraged, not deterred, and certainly, not ruthlessly put down. Uplifting the plight of the poor takes precedence over everything—certainly over so trifling (in comparison) a thing as traffic. We all want traffic solved, but not at this immense cost.

It is simply not true, as Fernando alleges, that the sidewalk vendors are just being stubborn: they can ply their trade inside markets for the same amount they use to pay off the those prey on them. I checked this. The fees for stalls are easily more than what they pay to cops and goons, who are often one and the same. Quite apart from that, the fee for the rights to a stall is huge. You need a good amount of seed capital to get a spot inside a market, which puts it beyond the reach of those who borrow daily from "five-six" creditors to keep body and soul together. Microcredit is about as accessible to them as Malacañang. Look at the ragtag band that sells cigarettes on sidewalks, or on roads, weaving through traffic, and imagine them filling a form in triplicate to borrow from formal creditors.

Of course, something needs to be done about the way they choke sidewalks, but that clearly requires more serious thought and the cooperation of various national government agencies. Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's suggestion that Fernando confiscate the peddlers' goods and donate them to charity instead of burning them is not clever, it is batty. You cannot have more deserving charity cases than the very same peddlers whose wares Atienza proposes to seize and who are deserving precisely because they are not asking for charity, but working, eking out a living, *nagbabanat ng buto*.

What will happen to them if you prevent them from doing that, from deriving a legitimate income, from fighting to keep body and soul together in a legal, and ultimately very moral way (yes, moral, from the sheer fact of hewing to the straight and narrow while being driven to desperate lengths)? GMA can haul in as many criminals as she can catch to Malacañang, but their numbers will keep swelling.

And in the end, where is the justice in pouring kerosene on the box of cigarettes of that old woman in Avenida and throwing a lighted cigarette on it just so we can have better-looking sidewalks?

Decisive moves of GMA's people vs criminality

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE SLAYING of Pentagon gang leader Faisal Marohombsar the other day was the latest in a series of big confidence-building achievements chalked up by the police and the military lately as the administration wages war against criminality and lawlessness. A lot remains to be done in this regard, such as catching the criminals who continue to rob helpless passengers in buses, taxis and FX vehicles as well as clients in high-class restaurants and now even Jollibee outlets and small beauty parlors. But the good thing is that government forces are moving more decisively than before. There were very few mourners for the Pentagon leader, but there was a lot of cheers for GMA and the police.

* * *

A recent Philippine Star report said that while the government faces a bloated budget deficit this year, the senators have already spent most of their pork-barrel funds for infrastructure projects. Four senators have already exceeded their allotments while the rest have used them all up already. But there's one senator, Joker Arroyo, who has not touched his P100-million allocation, and the report said the unused funds were reverted to the National Treasury presumably to be used on other government needs. The report noted that Arroyo, who chairs the Senate blue ribbon committee, has the smallest staff in the Senate, and the inference is that this could be the reason he has no need for a big allocation.

Joker's non-use of the funds, however, could be double-edged. On the one hand, he gives the impression that he has no need to court votes, owing perhaps to his lack of ambition for a higher post. On the other hand, those who voted for him could think that he's not giving them any help. In these times of critical fund shortage, however, perhaps it is a higher form of patriotism to leave funds in the treasury than to disburse them in the form of pork barrel.

* * *

Since I raised apprehensions about the possible appointment of Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo to the post of ombudsman, I got calls from lawyers sharing the feeling. Their anxiety stems not from Marcelo's lack of capability, for he is very competent, but from the fact that he comes from what used to be, until the appointment of senior partner Antonio Carpio to the Supreme Court, the Carpio Villaraza Cruz law office. That firm is now perceived to be among the most powerful law offices in the country, owing to the closeness of its partners to the First Couple. I cannot confirm the report that senior partner Arthur "Pancho" Villaraza is related to President Macapagal, but their closeness to the powers-that-be would add a burden upon ombudsman if he were Marcelo, especially since he would be frequently facing the Supreme Court where Carpio sits as an associate justice and a known power fulcrum.

* * *

The lawyers' apprehensions about a further consolidation of the law firm's hold on power if Marcelo gets the post of ombudsman doubtless come from perceptions of how it used power in the past. For instance, there's talk that the appointment of Feliciano Aspi, Carpio's classmate at the UP College of Law (where the latter was the class valedictorian), as chief fiscal of Makati during the Ramos era was facilitated by the law firm and that it is moving to have Aspi named to the Court of Appeals. Then, too, like any powerful outfit, the firm's lawyers have been known to cast lots with various sides. In the 1992 elections, for instance, Carpio supported FVR while Villaraza was said to have backed Danding Cojuangco.

* * *

Earlier I mentioned that people have been texting about the possibility of having a "Carpio & Carpio" in the Supreme Court if Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales of the Court of Appeals were to be appointed to fill one of the two vacancies in Court. She is a third cousin of Justice Carpio (not his first cousin as this column earlier reported), while the "other Carpio" being spoken of in text messages, Leny Carpio-Panganiban, wife of Justice Artemio Panganiban, is no relation at all.

A prominent lawyer pointed out that Carpio-Morales deserves appointment to the high court on her own merits as she has a reputation for competence and integrity. This is reflected in the fact that she was one of nine nominees to the Supreme Court recently recommended to Malacañang by the Judicial and Bar Council, headed by Chief Justice Hilario Davide. In addition, since the time of Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, the Supreme Court justices have voted secretly on their choices of nominees based on the JBC's original list, and normally the JBC has respected this vote. Two weeks ago, the Court picked Carpio-Morales from the JBC's original 20 nominees, along with four others: Court of Appeals Justices Romeo Callejo (who was the top choice), Delilah Magtolis and Cancio Garcia, and UP Law dean Raul Pangalangan (who came in second).

* * *

Speaking of nominees to the Supreme Court, reports say there's some lobbying even at this stage for former Executive Secretary Adolf Azcuna, even if his name wasn't on the JBC list. Azcuna's strong backer is former President Cory Aquino. But reports say that what caused him to be dropped from the JBC list was the talk that he fronted for Kokoy Romualdez in the acquisition of the Trans Middle East Equities Corp. from the Lopezes, as well as the controversial acquisition of the Bulletin by Emilio Yap, whom Azcuna represented.

* * *

Those who haven't seen the roving centenary exhibit on the life and work of Blessed Josemaria Escriva, founder of Opus Dei, who will be canonized in Rome on Oct. 6 can still catch it at the 4th floor, SM Megamall (in front of Dad's Restaurant) starting this Thursday, Aug. 28 until Monday, Sept. 2.

Debating rights and life

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"PARA sa ikauunlad ng bayan, dalawang anak lamang (For the country's progress, just have two children)," was the topic the "Debate" staffer wanted to assign to me. "What side will you be taking?" she asked. Well, I said, I don't really know…

In the first place, no couple ever has sex or avoids sex with the country's progress in mind. "Lie back and think of England" went out with the bustle and white gloves. Second, no one, not even governments, would dare prescribe an "ideal" family size these days. Even China claims to have abandoned, at least as a matter of national policy, its "one-child" limit, though pressure may still be put on couples by village committees and local party councils. Governments around the world, including the Philippines, all signatories to the "Cairo Declaration," have officially abandoned coercive and dictatorial population and family planning policies. This largely because they have learned that such policies turned out to be counterproductive in the end. Even a system of "incentives" and "disincentives" has proven to be ineffective as it penalizes the children, by the withdrawal of housing or education subsidies, who in the first place did not ask to be born. And while I personally believe that smaller families are preferable—simply because parents have only limited financial, physical, even emotional resources to raise children to be the best persons they can be—I also support every couple's right to have as many or as few children as they want. But there can be no avoiding the fact that even such a personal, private decision as the size of one's family has an impact on public welfare. Especially if, because of one's inadequacies as a parent, one's children end up as wards of the state.

* * *

THOUGH last week's "Debate" was premised on the challenge hurled by CBCP President Bishop Orlando Quevedo at the legislators who signed a petition urging the President to be more decisive on the matter of population and family planning policy, no one from the CBCP, "pro-life" organizations, or the executive branch showed up at the GMA-7 studio to debate the issue. Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit has, as far as I know, avoided any formal confrontation between him and reproductive health and rights groups. And scuttlebutt has it that President Macapagal has issued an informal "gag order" on other members of her Cabinet when it comes to her family planning policy—or lack thereof.

We thus found ourselves, all reproductive rights and family planning advocates, sorting out our positions so we could conduct at least a reasonable facsimile of a debate.

But what does it say of an administration that forges its family planning policy not by publicly consulting all concerned agencies and sectors, but by imposing policy on the sly and hidden from public scrutiny? And isn't sheer arrogance when officials think they don't need to make any explanations or elaborations on their position?

* * *

AMONG the guests at the studio that night were the Calma family, all 23 of them—the parents and their 21 children.

As she told her story, it struck me that Mrs. Calma and her extra-large family is an object lesson on the shortcomings of reproductive health programs.

Asked by "Mareng Winnie" Monsod if she had ever practiced family planning, Mrs. Calma said she was using an IUD but she had it taken out after she started bleeding. (I couldn't quite catch her testimony, but I think she mentioned something about her uterus being punctured, though if that were so, how did she then go on to have a total of 21 children?)

"I became afraid, so I refused to practice any other method," she said in Filipino. What happened at the health center after Mrs. Calma asked that her IUD be removed? Didn't anybody counsel her that there were other methods she could use that could prove more suitable to her specific health needs and situation?

Granted, a misaligned or ill-fitting IUD posed a threat to Mrs. Calma's health, but so did multiple and serial pregnancies and deliveries. More so now, given Mrs. Calma's age. Didn't anybody from their barangay or their local health center approach the Calmas later and offer other contraceptive methods, especially a tubal ligation or vasectomy, after the family ballooned beyond the average size?

* * *

IN THE END, the issue of family planning goes beyond just family size or even getting a hold of runaway libidos—as the topic of another debate between comics "Brad Pete" and Beverly Salviejo suggested.

The free and meaningful exercise of reproductive choices—to have or not to have sex, to have or not to have children—is at heart an issue of rights. It is every man's and woman's right to enjoy safe and healthy sex, and to exercise sexuality in ways they find most meaningful, including nurturing a family.

But other people, including health professionals and government officials, seem to think they can impose their own morality on the public. Take for instance local governments such as the Manila city government and Puerto Princesa who have declared issued "pro-life" ordinances and have banned the provision of all family planning services and commodities except natural family planning.

No one seems to see this as a violation of the reproductive rights of men and women in both cities. As it is, it seems the rights of illegal sidewalk vendors have received more attention from the media than the rights of couples, but especially poor couples like the Calmas, to make their families as big or as small as they wish.

A quaint corner of the Orient

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

(In 1899 the dust hadn't quite settled yet from the Filipino American War. Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo remained at large and life in Manila was still topsy-turvy when one of the American soldiers, M.M. Shoemaker, wrote his impressions of the city.)

OUTSIDE Hotel Oriente in Binondo was the principal square where a vast tobacco warehouse sold excellent cigars for a song: $25 in gold per thousand. To its left was Binondo Church, "one of the great churches" through whose portals in the shadowy interior "gleam the lights of many candles, while the fragrance of incense floats outward toward us over the heads of the bowing worshippers. Beggars crowded the portals, dirt and dust cover the pavements sacred and profane."

Through the streets rushed all sorts and conditions of vehicles: Victorias drawn by little ponies, *carromatas* drawn by a single horse, *quilez* where one sat close to the driver, there being only one seat. The only one moving slowly was the cart drawn by a carabao. No one drove slowly in Manila, not even the evening pleasure-seekers at the Luneta. Even the tram cars drawn by three sturdy little stallions galloped wildly along. The situation lasted till 10 p.m.

The English Hotel was located in Escolta. Shadowy balconies surrounded the courtyard echoing with the sound of American sabers. From the center rose some old trees with wide tables around them.

Aguinaldo and his men were still around and he had just issued "Liberty or Death." People felt that the proclamation ensured a long guerrilla war through mountains and swamps.

There were some Spanish officers who had not been repatriated but were free to wander around. The cathedral was their temporary barracks and they had to be quartered by 8 p.m.

Although many people believed Aguinaldo and his men would attack, business went on as usual. Every other shop in Escolta was a beer hall; almost every door had "Bar" written over it.

When an alarm rang, people rushed into the streets. Yankee soldiers would march down Escolta while Spanish soldiers made a desperate attempt to get into Intramuros but would be stopped by sentries at the Bridge of Spain despite their wild gesticulations and arguments, all of which produced no effect on the crossed bayonets of the Americans.

In the midst of the confusion came the Chinese vendors around the corner bearing burdens at either end of long poles. The shops on Escolta would close, the owners repairing to the second-story windows to see what the fuss was about. It took some 15 minutes for the entire 20,000 men to position since the city had been mapped out and each squad and sentinel had his assignment.

After half an hour, the alarm passed. The shops reopened and a tide of humanity reappeared. No one seemed to know the reason for the alarm. Some said it there was a raid on a gambling hall in the old town, with a dog as the only casualty. Others claimed that horse thieves were to blame.

Feared as the insurgents were, still they had spared the water mains that were installed on the surface of the ground unprotected over a total of seven miles to the city. Their reason was that they wished "to spare their families and friends" in Manila.

In La Loma, the Tagalogs buried their dead in catacombs and graves while the Chinese interred theirs in round topped tombs with a cross atop. The catacombs had been broken into and the tombs ransacked. Here a cadaver of an old man lay exposed to the wind which was blowing his white hair.

In Sampaloc was another cemetery where the chapel was wrecked and hundreds of graves and catacombs were desecrated. One corner of the wall had been transformed into an earthwork and outside stood some pickets.

In Malate were the barracks of the 14th company. The evening drill would take place in front of the statue of Queen Isabela near the church. The clattering bells rang the "Angelus" and as the pealing ended, the Stars and Stripes came down for the night against a backdrop of Commodore Dewey's ships silhouetted against the crimson sky.

Old Manila was laid out in squares. There were narrow sidewalks, shaded by the projecting roofs of the houses and palaces which rose in regular rows on either side, but never more than two stories in height. No matter, the buildings were not squat but handsome and stately in appearance.

There was another enclosure surrounded by a very high wall with one entrance. Within was a group of buildings that formed a tenement where the poor clustered around the arches and ruined corridors. The wine shops were many and the guitars tinkled throughout the length and breadth of the town except where the high walls of the monasteries and convents stared blankly at you. There were no soaring campaniles or spires or domes, but above its wide moats and massive double walls rose the roofs of its churches, palaces, monasteries and convents, long, low and gloomy-looking except where the brilliant coloring of the walls beneath caught the sunlight.

The palaces and private edifices rose just high enough to allow one balcony to overlook the battlements. These balconies were everywhere, and as the sun set, they were occupied by pretty maidens, ugly old women, sleek, fat friars, Spanish prisoners and American soldiers

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Remembering Beng

YOUNG BLOOD

Mark Angeles

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

SHE was born Benjaline Hernandez. A poet and creative writing student at the Ateneo de Davao University, Beng went into campus journalism and eventually became features editor of Atenews.

I didn't have the privilege of knowing her very well. We almost ran into each other when we were delegates to the College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) National Press Convention in Infanta, Quezon, in 1999. On one occasion when we had to wear our best clothes in a procession, she wore black high boots.

That was exactly what she was, they said: feisty, *kikay* and friendly, a typical *kolehiyala* despite being a resolute fighter for genuine campus press freedom.

The fire within her was inextinguishable. She believed that writers should not stop being persons, writing only to satisfy their own selfish drives. Like the frog that jumped outside the well to see the real world, campus journalists should rise above traditional journalism. Campus journalists should not isolate themselves from the broad masses. They live with them, suffer with them, and should therefore fight at their side.

Advancing her political consciousness, Beng became the vice president for Mindanao of CEGP and secretary general of Karapatan-Davao, a network carrying out fact-finding missions on cases of human rights violations.

She went to Barangay Caridad, Arakan Valley, South Cotabato, last March to lead a team conducting research on the massacre of three peasants believed to be the work of military groups deployed in the community of Tababa.

Beng did not finish her research. At around midday on April 5, elements of the Citizens Armed Force Geographical Unit (Cafgu) raided a shack in Sitio Bukatol, Barangay Kinawayan, three kilometers from Arakan, and killed the four people they found there.

The victims were all members of the New People's Army, their killers said. Beng was among those killed. She was 22.

Beng was about to have lunch with three members of the Arakan Progressive Peasant Organization—Crisanto Amora, 23; Vivian Andrade, 18; and Labaon Sinunday, 30—when the 12th Special Forces Company of the 7th Airborne Battalion of the Philippine Army and the Cafgus headed Sgt. Antonio Torella opened fire at Sinunday's hut. According to witnesses, Beng and Andrade were crying and begging for their lives and asking the armed men to take them to the hospital, when they were summarily executed.

One of the executioners would later say, *"Perting hilak sa mga babaye* (The women were weeping a lot)."

Residents found Beng with her arms on her chest, as if to shield herself from the bullets. Which only goes to show that she was unarmed and did not resist arrest.

There were wounds in her neck, upper-right chest and left palm. A bullet went through her mouth, shattering her face. There were powder burns on her chest, indicating that she had been shot at close range. Her skull was crushed. Her eyes were wide open. She was wearing a cream Giordano shirt and an Ateneo de Davao physical education jogging pants when she died.

To justify the brutal killing and prove she was a communist rebel, the military distributed copies of a diary allegedly belonging to Beng. One entry read, "Long live the revolution!"

But whether she was a revolutionary or not, Beng had a right to hold her own political beliefs. That's what the Constitution guarantees. She and her companions were unarmed and they had no criminal record. The Commission on Human Rights which investigated the incident concluded that what happened that day was a massacre, not an encounter.

Beng was the 28th victim of human rights violation under the "strong republic" of President Macapagal-Arroyo. The despotic character of this government, which has the propensity to trample upon the basic freedom of every individual to speak out and express his views, has become a threat to the lives of citizens, be they involved in the progressive movement or not.

When I first heard the news about Beng, I felt as if I myself had been hit by the same bullets that ripped through her body. Justice for Beng became my personal battle cry. I pledged to fight for my fellow Guilder and poet who gave up her life in the struggle for people's rights and welfare.

Ordinary people were led to a different truth about Beng's death and the death of others like her by the mainstream media. They were told by the government that those who were against President Macapagal's use of brutal force against the people were communists or even "terrorists." This is worse than the communist scare during the Cold War, when revolutionaries were pictured as *aswangs* and *manananggals*.

The fact, however, is that those whom the government condemn as terrorists are among the most peace-loving and gentlest people around. Fidel Agcaoili, a leader of the National Democractic Front and the first true real revolutionary I met when he talked before campus journalists a few years back about the status of the peace process between the NDF and the government, was more like a father, smiling often as he explained certain points.

Warriors like Beng are the real allies of the masses. Unfortunately, our enemies think they can crush the struggle for their emancipation by killing people like Being. But all they will achieve is to swell our ranks with members like Beng who will stand up and fight until truth and justice see light in our country.

When we were young, we believed everything we were told. Now that we've grown up, we are given a chance to see the real face of our society. We are able to learn the truth, and if we see injustice, our conscience tells us to respond.

Beng was not at the wrong place at the wrong time. She was able to bring out the truth about the Tababa massacre to her primary readers, the students, and then to the people. It was a truth that the mainstream media were unable to report, for business or political reasons.

Remembering Beng's life and death is not just becoming conscious that Beng was here with us months ago. It also requires that we look inside and find in ourselves a part of Beng struggling to awaken, wanting to act.

Mark Angeles, 22, is the vice president for Luzon of the College Editors Guild of the Philippines. He is a former editor of the The Communicator, a students' publication of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines-Sta.Mesa.

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LETTERS

Transparency and accountability in the BIR

WE in the Transparency and Accountability Network (TAN) support the reforms initiated by former Commissioner Rene Bañez at the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

We recognize the value of these reforms as they usher in transparency and accountability in the BIR, promote efficiency in responding to the needs of taxpayers and ultimately raise collections to meet targets and fund the operations of the government.

Among the reforms supported by TAN is the activation of multi-stakeholders' involvement in top-level decision-making and policy formulation. TAN believes that a BIR board composed of senior officials of government and credible individuals from the private sector will eliminate abuse of discretionary power.

We likewise endorse the implementation of performance-based contracts for all managers of the BIR. Operating under the principle of reward for performance, the contracts underscore financial and managerial flexibility counterbalanced by high performance standards and accountability.

We believe that these reforms will eventually de-politicize the BIR, cutting off unwelcome ties that bind, and allow the BIR to shift into full gear to achieve higher collection efficiency.

We call on the public to support the passage of legislation needed to restructure the BIR. These reforms symbolize society's aspiration for good governance through transparency and accountability in government. Since the BIR is one of the most corruption-ridden agencies of the government, reforming it will send a strong message that all forms of corruption in government can be eradicated.

The country is in dire need of radical institutional reforms to protect and serve the genuine needs and interest of the people and TAN out its full support behind these reforms.

--TAN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS, Rm 408 Ateneo Professional Schools, Rockwell Center, Makati City

A wasteful and illogical solution to garbage problem

WE wish to call attention to the views and pronouncements of MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando regarding waste management in Metro Manila which is embodied in RA 9003. This was the first law President Macapagal- Arroyo signed on Jan. 26, 2001 and it is the only one of its kind in the world.

Article 2, Section 21: "Mandatory Segregation of Solid Wastes" states: "That segregation of waste shall primarily be conducted at the source, to include household, institutional, industrial, commercial and agricultural sources."

We at Mother Earth disagree with Fernando when he says that segregation, composting and recycling do not work. We have proven that intensive segregation, composting and recycling will leave about a 10-percent residual waste.

If RA 9003 is fully implemented, the use of hauling trucks will be greatly reduced and savings to the government can reach at least 50 percent. This is so because according to an MMDA study, kitchen waste constitutes 50 percent while 40 are recyclables. This means that only 10 percent of the waste can neither be composted nor recycled and will therefor have to be collected by these trucks and brought to the landfill.

The huge cost of hauling will be the biggest savings. It is avoidable. A medium-size barangay will only need a one-time funding of about P500,000 to start a materials recovery facility (MRF) for the first year. The program is sustainable. The compost produced by the barangay and the recyclabes sold to junk shops or factories will finance the MRF project in the succeeding years.

There is no need for new funding. The local government unit will just have to divert a portion of its garbage hauling fee (P500 million in the case of Quezon City) to the establishment of MRFs in the barangay or in a cluster of barangays.

There are already success stories of barangays practicing RA 9003. To name a few: Barangka Itaas (Mandaluyong), Barangay Talayan (QC), Escopa 2 (QC), Sun Valley (Parañaque), Teoville (Paranaque), New Era (QC), PhilAm Homes (QC), Valle Verde 3 (Pasig), Malacañang Palace, Bagumbuhay (QC), Ugong (Pasig), and the cities of Candon, Olongapo and Sorsogon.

The MMDA chairman should read the alarming news item released last week by the United Nations Environmental Program, titled "Asian Brown Haze." It states that there is a three-kilometer deep pollution blanket stretching across South Asia that is damaging agriculture, modifying rainfall and putting hundreds of thousands of people at risk. While this study focuses on the impact on South Asia, the haze problem is comparable, if not more severe, in Southeast and East Asia. The findings have come from observations gathered by 200 scientists.

If the plan of Fernando is implemented, gases produced by burning and landfilling of waste will definitely contribute more to this haze.

The whole world is into recycling, with the exception of New York City. It is still implementing the "*hakot-tambak*" system which Fernando wants to maintain in Metro Manila.

Can Fernando explain to the Filipino people his wasteful and illogical solution to the waste problem of Metro Manila.

--SONIA S. MENDOZA, president, Mother Earth Unlimited; representative, National Solid Waste Commission

Human, inhuman

"CONSCIOUS that all peoples are united by common bonds, their cultures pieced together in a shared heritage, and concerned that this delicate mosaic may be shattered at any time..."

Thus, starts the preamble of the "Rome Statute," a treaty establishing an International Criminal Court (ICC). The ICC represents a landmark in human history, showing how nations have come to realize that international intervention may be needed to bring justice when it comes to certain crimes, described in the Rome Statute as "unimaginable atrocities that deeply shock the conscience of humanity."

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Many of the listed crimes are familiar to Filipinos, who have experienced atrocities in times of war and peace. One example is sexual slavery, where young girls—"comfort women"—were abducted from their villages and forced to service the sexual needs of Japanese soldiers during the World War II.

Filipinos have suffered, yet the Philippines is not among the 77 countries that have ratified the treaty. This means that on Sept. 3, we will not be among the nations who will hold a general assembly to discuss how the ICC will be run.

Why have we not signed a treaty of such significance? I'm going to explore that in Thursday's column, but today I want to elaborate on just what the treaty involves, if only to highlight the tragedy of our defaulting on this historic event.

The ICC will have jurisdiction over four broad categories of offenses: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. Each category is described in the Rome Statute, which makes the treaty a catalogue of the most abominable acts humans have inflicted on fellow humans.

The list is depressing, but it is also a grand attempt to come to a consensus as to what is morally unacceptable, across all cultures. In effect, the Rome Statute defines humanity by defining what is "inhuman" and what we might be able to do to put an end to these crimes.

The Rome Statute discusses war crimes by reiterating the definition of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 as to what is unacceptable in times of war, including torture, depriving a prisoner of war of the rights of a fair trial, even hostage-taking. But the Rome Statute goes a step further to define "other serious violations of the laws and customs," including attacks on undefended villages, killing or wounding a combatant who has surrendered, even "intentionally attacking buildings dedicated to religion, education, art, science or charitable purposes, historic monuments, hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected."

If the list leaves us squirming in our seats, it's because we see such crimes even in this 21st century. Many of us think immediately of the grisly al-Qaida videotapes shown on CNN, or the Abu Sayyaf hostage-taking and beheading, but let's not forget the "collateral damage" (civilian deaths) inflicted by the US in Afghanistan and the recent Newsweek exposé of the treatment of Afghan prisoners.

War crimes are specific to combatants. The Rome Statute's list of crimes against humanity is the longest section in the treaty, referring to acts committed "as part of a widespread or systematic attack against any civilian population."

Included in this category are several forms of assault which are now sometimes referred to by women's advocacy groups as "gender crimes," named in the treaty as "rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity."

Also considered an international crime is persecution against any group based on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious or gender grounds. Apartheid, defined as the "systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other racial group," is specifically mentioned.

The Rome Statute is a long 40-page document with detailed provisions on what falls under the ICC's jurisdiction, on how trials are to be conducted—even on the selection of judges ("equitable geographical representation" and "fair representation of males and females").

The treaty is an amazing piece of work, which should lead us to seriously question why the Philippine government has not ratified the treaty. Our government was one of the original signatories to the treaty, but signing is not the same as ratifying. Ratification has to come after our Senate has reviewed the treaty and agreed to endorse it.

Has the delay in ratification been due to an oversight, maybe because our senators have been so busy? Or does the delay reflect the way our foreign policy is becoming increasingly subservient to powerful international interests? Find out on Thursday

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Swollen Yangtze River threatens Chinese city

YUEYANG, China—Surging floodwaters pushed the giant Yangtze River to danger levels on dikes shielding the metropolis of Wuhan on Monday as storms dumped more rain on sodden central China.

No flooding was reported in Wuhan, a city of 7 million people. But the river was 50 cm above a level thought to threaten the safety of its dikes, said an official of the Yangtze River Water Resources Committee in the city. She would give only her surname, Sun.

A second crest of floodwaters pouring down the Yangtze from inundated areas upstream is expected to reach Wuhan soon, she said.

"We are watching it closely," she said.

The storms added more water to rain-bloated Dongting Lake, raising the threat to strained dikes that protect hundreds of thousands of homes.

The 3,995-sq-km lake, China's second-largest, connects to the Yangtze in Hunan province about 200 km upstream from Wuhan.

On Monday, the lake was 1.7 meters above safe levels on dikes protecting Yueyang, a city of 600,000 people, said an official of the Hunan Water Resources Bureau. He would give only his surname, Zhou.

Hundreds of thousands of people who live around the lake have been evacuated over the past week. An army of more than 1 million laborers and soldiers raced to reinforce hundreds of kilometers of dikes that surround it.

After days of clear skies, up to 5 cm of rain is forecast by Tuesday for the northern part of Hunan and the western provinces of Yunnan, Guizhou and Sichuan.

"The worsening weather will certainly bring more threats," said Zhou.

Floods and landslides have killed about 1,000 people across China since the rainy season began in June. More than 200 of those deaths were reported in Hunan.

In Xiangyin, a city on Dongting Lake south of Yueyang, hundreds of farm families were evacuated when the lake flooded low-lying areas, said Chen Zhenfu, general secretary of the Yueyang branch of the Chinese Red Cross.

Soldiers in Xiangyin were racing to repair a leaking dike, said Qi Ding, a motorcycle taxi driver in the town reached by telephone.

"There's still a lot of danger," Qi said.

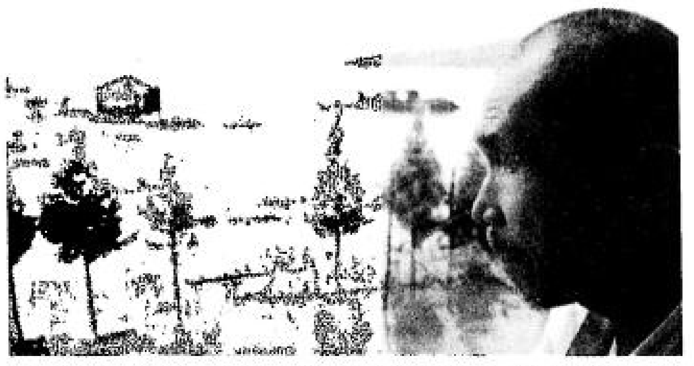
Thousands of homes along the edge of Dongting Lake have flooded, but most residents are going about life normally.

Early Monday, as lightning streaked the skies, people in Yueyang were going to work, some of them walking barefoot through the rain.

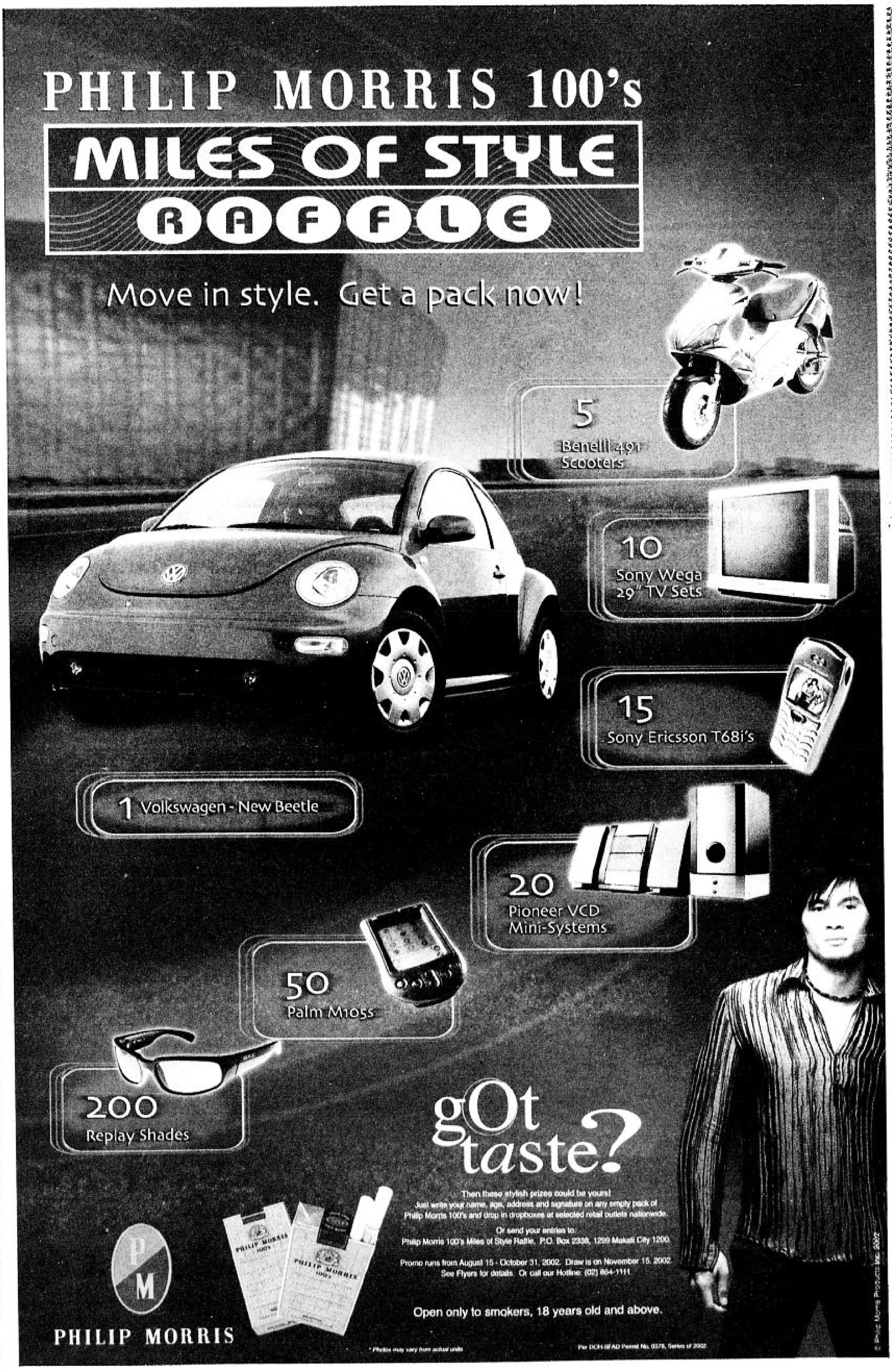
"Of course, we're worried about this rain. If this continues, it could get very serious," said a man sitting at a food stall on the waterfront, where puddles were already ankle-deep in some places. He would only give his surname Zhuan.

Xu Bang, a taxi driver, was more optimistic.

"This rain is nothing," Xu said. "Don't worry. This place will never flood." *AP*



A MAN looks out over flooded buildings at Yangliuyuan in China's central Hunan province Monday. More than 2,000 people were evacuated from the village when floodwaters breached a dike, completely submerging many houses and large areas of rice paddies. AP



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ATTACK ON IRAQ

Bush advised not to seek Congress approval

CRAWFORD, Texas—White House lawyers have told US President George W. Bush he would not need congressional approval to attack Iraq, sources said.

Two senior administration officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Sunday night White House counsel Al Gonzales advised Bush earlier this month that the Constitution gave the president authority to wage war without explicit authority from Congress.

"Any decision the president may make on a hypothetical congressional vote will be guided by more than one factor," said White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer, who declined to confirm that Bush had received an opinion from Gonzales on the matter.

"The president will consider a variety of legal, policy and historical issues if a vote were to become a relevant matter. He intends to consult with Congress because Congress has an important role to play."

Despite the go-ahead from his legal advisers, administration officials said the president had not ruled out seeking lawmakers' approval should he decide to attack Iraq.

The officials noted that Bush's father was told in advance of the 1991 war that he did not need congressional authority to act, but nonetheless sought Congress' blessing for his action.

One of the officials said Gonzales also concluded the current president had authority to act against Saddam under the congressional resolution that authorized his father's actions in the 1991 Gulf War.

Furthermore, that official said Bush was told he also could act against Iraq on the strength of the Sept. 14 congressional resolution approving military action against terrorism.

Both officials said Bush had not decided whether to use military force against Saddam.

Still, the existence of a legal opinion—along with earlier reports that the Pentagon is drafting attack plans—reflect the seriousness of preparations within the highest reaches of government to pave way for war against Iraq if Bush so chooses.

The legal advice became public Sunday as Republicans sounded a mixed message for Bush about whether, when and how to use military action to remove Saddam from power.

Invade right away, after telling Congress, was one course. A second would have Bush wait for a better assessment of the Iraqi president's danger to American security, then hold off until lawmakers gave their approval.

Some Republicans want Bush to get UN authorization before moving, probably after giving Saddam an ultimatum to allow more inspections for weapons of mass destruction, which he would be expected to refuse.

Bush did not expect such divergence among leading Republicans, which broke into the open in recent weeks from lawmakers including Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska, the top Republican on the Senate foreign relations committee, and Rep. Dick Armey of Texas, the House majority leader. *AP*

Kabul says Bin Laden in Pakistan

KABUL—Afghanistan's foreign minister said Sunday he believed most al-Qaida and Taliban fugitives, including Osama bin Laden and Mullah Mohammed Omar, are in hiding across the border in northwest Pakistan.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Foreign Minister Abdullah said the fugitives still posed a threat and all countries in the region should work harder to track them down.

"They are mainly on the other side of our border, that is, in the northwestern frontier of Pakistan," Abdullah said of al-Qaida and Taliban holdouts. "My perception is that Mullah Omar and Bin Laden, they both are somewhere in Pakistan."

He gave no proof to back up the claim.

A US-led coalition has been struggling to hunt down the two leaders and their supporters for months in the rugged hills and mountains that straddle the two nations' common border.

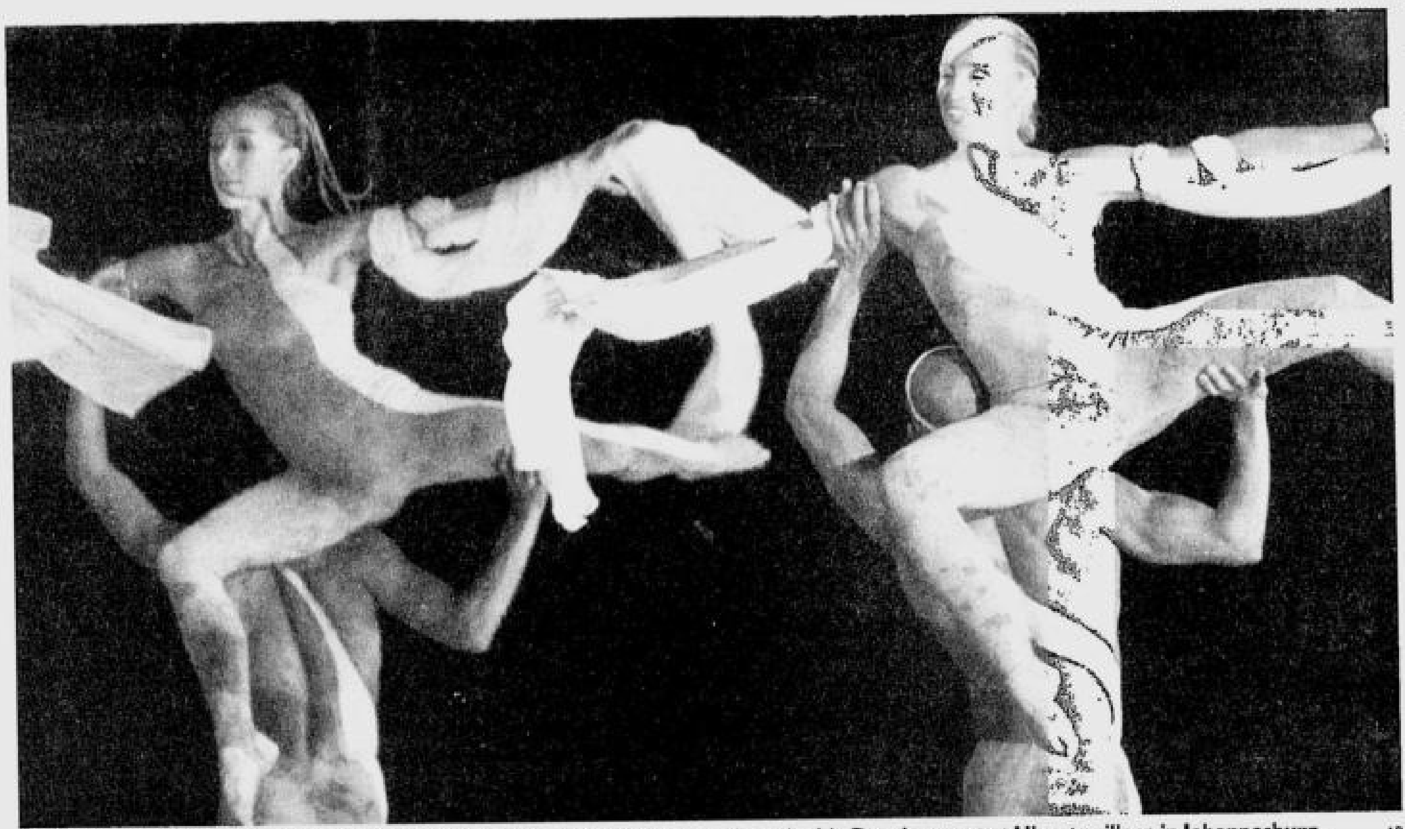
The Taliban were strongly backed by Pakistan's government for years. But Pakistan withdrew its support following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States and joined the American-led war on terrorism.

The Taliban and their al-Qaida allies were ousted last year in a US-led bombing campaign supported by ground troops from the Afghan opposition northern alliance.

Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan—controlled now in large part by northern alliance leaders who once opposed Pakistan—have been awkward since the transitional government of President Hamid Karzai took power.

Abdullah said, however, that relations between the two neighbors had "entered a new phase" and "improved a great deal" in recent months.

In April, Pakistan President Gen. Pervez Musharraf visited Kabul and met with Karzai. Abdullah was scheduled to visit Pakistan on Monday. *AP*



DANCERS perform at the welcoming ceremony of the World Summit on Sustainable Development at Ubuntu village in Johannesburg. AP

EARTH SUMMIT

Mbeki calls for global war on poverty

JOHANNESBURG—The United Nations development and environmental summit opened Monday with a call for coordinated international action to fight poverty and protect the world's natural resources.

"The peoples of the world expect that this world summit will live up to its promise of being a fitting culmination to a decade of hope," South African President Thabo Mbeki told delegates at the opening session of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The 10-day summit, billed as the largest in UN history, hopes to halve the more than 1 billion people without access to clean water and the more than 2 billion without proper sanitation. It aims to develop specific plans for expanding the poor's access to electricity and health care, to reverse the degradation of agricultural land and to protect the global environment.

The world clearly agrees that international solidarity is needed to fight poverty and inequality, Mbeki told the delegates.

"A global human society based on poverty for many and prosperity for a few, characterized by islands of wealth, surrounded by a sea of poverty, is unsustainable," Mbeki said.

"The world has grown into a global village. The survival of everybody in this village demands that we develop a universal consensus to act together to ensure that there is no longer any river that divides our common habitat into poor and wealthy parts," he said.

But some activists fear the world's wealthiest nations could sabotage any meaningful attempt to build on agreements adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit in Brazil.

"It's important for us that the vision that was captured at Rio is not eroded," said Goh Chien Yen, with the Third World Network.

In a weekend of pre-summit talks, negotiators tried to resolve contentious issues about who will pay for development.

Developing nations want promises from the West to increase aid and give greater access to its markets, while the United States and other Western nations are resisting any new aid targets in the summit's final plan.

The head of the US delegation, Assistant Secretary of State John Turner, said he was "feeling positive" about recent progress. But he also played down the importance of the summit's final documents, saying they were secondary to the "really historic opportunity" the summit offers to launch "results-oriented" projects.

"We don't see a need for new targets," he told journalists. "We feel action on the ground . . . should be the test."

In their opening speeches, both Mbeki and summit Secretary General Nitin Desai stressed that the final documents must contain specific timetables and targets.

Many environmental activists were disheartened that US President George W. Bush was not among the more than 100 world leaders scheduled to attend. They also blamed the United States for much of the difficulty in reaching agreement.

The United States "can be a catalyst for positive action or a constraint on international cooperation," said Achim Steiner, director general of The World Conservation Union, or IUCN. *AP*

North Korea, Japan agree to more talks

PYONGYANG—Japan and North Korea wrapped up their first high-level talks in two years Monday, far from resolving longstanding differences but with an agreement to pursue more negotiations over the next month.

North Korea repeated its demand that Japan make amends for its colonial past, while Tokyo again raised the thorny issue of Japanese citizens it believes were kidnapped by the reclusive communist state.

"I repeatedly told them we must put all our problems on the table without avoiding any of them," said Hitoshi Tanaka, chief of Asian affairs at the Japanese Foreign Ministry. "This does not mean that specific problems were solved."

The two-day talks in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang that began Sunday between Tanaka and his North Korean counterpart Ma Chol Su were from the start expected to be a mere prelude to efforts by the Asian nations to normalize ties. They have never agreed to diplomatic relations since North Korea's communist government was founded in 1948.

North Korea, which needs foreign aid to feed its people, has been gradually seeking contact with the rest of the world. *AP*

54% of Britons want to live in US, Spain

LONDON—More than half of Britons would like to emigrate from their homeland, fed up with the price of living and terrible weather, and would prefer to live in the United States or Spain, a survey published on Monday said.

Fifty-four percent of Britons surveyed by pollsters YouGov for the Daily Telegraph newspaper said they would like to settle abroad if they were free to do so.

Similar polls found just 42 percent wanted to emigrate in 1948 shortly after World War Two, and only 40 percent in 1975.

Of those wanting to leave Britain behind, the United States was the most popular destination followed by Australia.

However, if language wasn't a barrier—Britons are the worst linguists in Europe according to an EU poll—then Spain would be their preferred country of residence followed by France, with the United States pushed back into third place.

The survey found that being able live more cheaply and the chance of new opportunities were cited as the main reasons for moving abroad. Unsurprisingly the notoriously wet and shifty British climate was the next most popular reason for leaving. *Reuters*

FLIGHT 93 MEMORIAL GETTY IMAGES

A cross stands at the temporary memorial to the passengers of Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Flight 93 crashed during the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks near the memorial. Many visitors to the site leave either an object or a message on a board.

Israel Army chief of staff urges decisive victory over Palestinians

JERUSALEM—Israel's Army chief of staff called for a decisive victory over the Palestinians to ensure that terror is not rewarded—saying the Palestinians posed a "cancer-like" threat that needs to be "fought to the bitter end."

Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon's comments to a rabbinical assembly late Sunday stirred angry criticism by left-wing politicians who said he overstepped his bounds as a military officer.

In the West Bank, Israeli tanks backed by helicopters searched for militants in the Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank early Monday. Exchanges of fire erupted between gunmen and soldiers but there were no immediate reports of injuries.

Camp resident Mohammed Damag, 45, said 20 Israeli soldiers entered his house at about 4 a.m. and confined all the residents to one room, taking the over the roof as a lookout post.

In the Gaza Strip, two mortar shells fell in Jewish settlements, causing no injuries. On Friday, Israeli soldiers foiled an attempted attack by militants on a settlement in Gaza.

The new violence in Gaza jeopardized a fragile agreement under which Israel is to pull back troops from Palestinian areas, in exchange for Palestinian efforts to restore security.

However, the chief negotiators from both sides, Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer and Palestinian Interior Minister Abdel Razek Yehiyeh, defended the deal against internal criticism, and said they would proceed.

Israelis and Palestinians are locked in a two-year-old cycle of attacks and counterattacks that began when US-sponsored peace talks broke down two years ago.

Yaalon, the army chief, said in his speech to the rabbinical assembly that Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon in May 2000 was interpreted by Arabs as proof that Israel can be forced into concessions through attacks on civilians. *AP*

Replica of Noah's Ark to be built in Bulgaria

SOFIA, Bulgaria—As scientists comb the Black Sea for the remains of Noah's Ark, a Bulgarian historian has launched an ambitious project to reconstruct the biblical vessel—complete with pairs of animals— as a tourist attraction.

The new ark will be built on the Black Sea coast near the Sunny Beach resort, some 400 km east of Sofia, said Nikolai Kanchev, the historian heading the project.

"The wooden vessel will be 112 meters long, 26 meters wide and over 9 meters high, and a part of it will be under water," Kanchev said. "Of course, there will be pairs of the different animal species chosen once by Noah."

The site also will include an exposition of historical artifacts found in the region.

Visitors will be given a presentation of an expedition headed by National Geographic Society explorer Robert Ballard, who has been searching the inky depths of the Black Sea for the remains of the ark.

Under the supervision of Ballard, an American explorer who discovered the remains of the Titanic, a team of 19 scientists is searching for undersea evidence of human habitation in the Black Sea region before the biblical flood described in Genesis.

Some scientists theorize that an antediluvian society around the Black Sea, predating those of Egypt and Mesopotamia, was submerged by a massive flood 7,600 years ago. The flood, they theorize, transformed a stillwater lake into the saltwater sea.

Explorers have found ancient vessels in remarkable condition in the Black Sea, whose unique oxygen-free deep water preserves wrecks without the worm damage and deterioration that normally affects wooden vessels.

The museum exposition is scheduled to open its doors in March 2003.

"Troy has its Trojan Horse, Romania has Dracula—we will have our Noah's Ark," Kanchev said. *AP*

Group says power act lobby funds from ADB

BAGUIO CITY—The alleged payoff, which former President Fidel Ramos said was used to railroad the passage of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira), came from funds of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the party-list Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec) claimed here last week.

The ADB had set the passage of the Epira as a condition for releasing a $1-billion loan for the National Power Corp. in 1999, said Luis Manuel Corral, Apec secretary-general.

He said Ramos' expose confirmed that the payoff was supplied by "agents," who "used the ADB loan package to pass a power law that legitimized the independent power producers' (IPP) contracts."

Corral said this is a "justifiable" reason to raise the "misuse" of the ADB loan before that bank's inspector panel, which acts as its internal ombudsman.

The IPP contracts are being blamed for the high purchased power adjustment (PPA) rates that doubled consumer power bills this year.

Last week, Sen. Manuel Villar admitted that "foreign pressure" drove Congress into fast-tracking the Epira. But Villar, a former Speaker of the 11th Congress, insisted that an P88-million "pay-off" never took place.

The Apec is also questioning a pending $600-million World Bank package which would be piped into the power industry's rural electricity sector to "further privatize what are already private (electricity distribution) cooperatives," Corral said.

He said like the Epira, the WB could have pressured Malacañang into missing a July 26 deadline set by the Epira for the government to condone P17 billion in debts incurred by 119 rural electric cooperatives (RECs).

Apec has launched a nationwide signature campaign here to ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to issue an executive order that will condone the REC debts, and which will "permanently reduce power rates in the provinces."

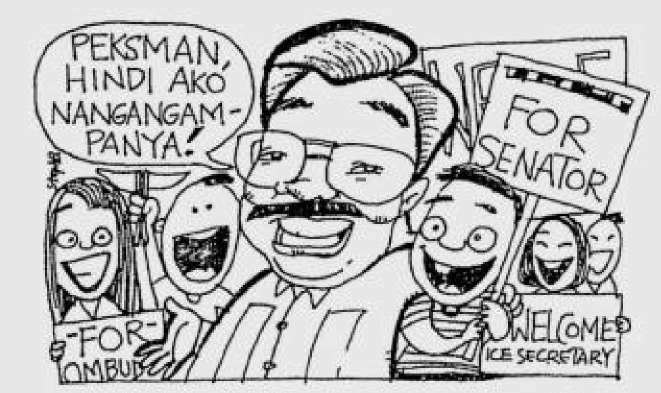
Corral told reporters in a press conference that the Epira is a "flawed law that was passed by virtue of an (P88-million) payola (pay-off)."

In a press statement, Apec said the ADB and the International Monetary Fund "stampeded the (11th) Congress into passing a flawed (power industry) restructuring law."

Apec sent the INQUIRER a copy of a Dec. 13, 1999 letter sent by IMF mission chief Markus Rodlauer to then Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella, one of the Epira's sponsors.

"(The IMF is) disappointed to learn that the 'electricity reform bill' which you have sponsored appears to have run into further delays . . . As you are aware, the program supported by the IMF expected passage of this bill before the end of the year," Rodlauer wrote Fuentebella.

"Given the importance of the power sector to the Philippine economy, as well as the progressive deterioration of the (National Power Corp.'s) finances, passage of reform legislation is more urgent than ever." *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



Travels not meant for senatorial polls, claims justice chief

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Justice Secretary Hernando Perez goes around the provinces shaking hands, making public appearances, but he insists that these sorties are not in preparation for his bid to run for senator in the 2004 elections.

He told the officers of different agencies under the Department of Justice on Friday last week that his attendance in seminars all over the country was not for political ends.

"Honestly, this is for the purposes of disseminating information and not for election purposes, not for senator," he said in his speech.

But Perez did not categorically say that he will not be running for any elective position in 2004. "(On) the question whether I would run or not, it's so hard to predict the future," he said.

He said his decision to run would depend on President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"If she'll tell me to run, then I'll run. If she wants me in her Cabinet, I'll stay. There are many people making plans for me. The President said I am the unanimous choice for the Ombudsman but she wants me to stay in the Department of Justice," said Perez.

Perez said some groups were pushing for him to be the next Ombudsman, replacing Aniano Desierto who had retired recently.

Some groups, he added, asked him to apply for Court of Appeals, or even Supreme Court, justice.

"Some people are pushing for me for the Ombudsman but they just want my position," he stressed.

Perez said the reason he is still in the Cabinet is because he has the confidence of the people.

Perez helped prosecute the impeachment complaint against ousted President Estrada before he was appointed justice secretary by President Macapagal.

He arrived in Cebu last week for the two-day Katarungang Pambarangay, a project of the Department of Justice. Perez visited several towns in Cebu to discuss with barangay leaders and local prosecutors the barangay justice system.

Army captures suspected rebel during encounter

CEBU CITY—A suspected rebel was captured yesterday during an encounter with Army soldiers in Catmon town, about 57 kilometers north of this city.

Lt. Col. Jonas Sumagaysay, commander of the 78th Infantry Battalion based in Sogod town, said the suspect has not been identified.

He said he received reports that several rebels were wounded in the exchange of fire but they were carried by their colleagues during their escape.

Sumagaysay said the encounter happened at about 2:15 p.m. as 18 soldiers patrolled Sitio Santican.

He said the exchange of fire lasted for a few minutes before at least 10 communist rebels retreated.

Sumagaysay said his men also found two .22 caliber rifles and one M-16 rifle in the encounter site.

The soldiers were pursuing rebels who killed a policeman and a soldier Aug. 15.

On Friday night, members of the 78th IB invited for questioning farmer Roel Concha on suspicion he was a rebel sympathizer in Barangay Guinabucan, Catmon.

His wife, Rizza, was found dead with three stab wounds in the neck, hours after her husband was taken from their home.

Sumagaysay said Rizza killed herself after a heated argument with Roel who refused to admit his connection with the rebels. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

DOF help sought in power tax collection

SAN FERNANDO CITY—La Union officials are asking Energy Secretary Vincent Perez to step into the long-drawn settlement of a multimillion-peso tax row among the La Union provincial government, the National Power Corp. and the Lopez-owned Bauang Private Power Corp (BPPC).

In a letter sent to Perez last week, Gov. Victor Ortega expressed concern over the repeated delay by Napocor's acting president, Roland Quilala, in approving the compromise agreement signed by Ortega and Ernesto Pantangco, BPPC executive vice president.

Ortega said former Napocor presidents Federico Puno and Jesus Alcordo had concurred with the agreement in June.

Ortega said Napocor's non-payment of its taxes had delayed the implementation of many government projects, such as the rehabilitation of school buildings. The money goes to the special education fund.

In the compromise agreement, the real property taxes on Napocor's machinery and equipment at the BPPC plant in Bauang town will be assessed at 40 percent and the penalties waived for the period from 1995 to 2001.

According to provincial treasury records, Napocor will have to pay the province more than P212 million based on the compromise agreement. The province will receive 35 percent of this amount, the Bauang government, 40 percent and the host barangay of Payocpoc Sur, 25 percent.

When negotiations started in late 1998, the province was imposing on BPPC more than P502.7 million in taxes from 1995 to 1999, based on a valuation of 80 percent, including penalties of almost P186 million. *Gia Damaso-Dumo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Security tight for business meet

By Franklin A. Caliguid
PDI Mindanao Bureau

SURIGAO CITY—Security measures have been put in place to ensure the safety of foreign and domestic delegates and key government officials who would attend the three-day 11th Mindanao Business Conference that will start tomorrow.

Chief Supt. Alberto Olario, police chief for the Caraga Region, said they formed a multi-agency task force to handle security concerns of the annual gathering of businessmen, investors and government policy-makers.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to grace the affair on the last day of the event.

Olario also downplayed fears that some followers of detained cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. might sow terror in retaliation for Ecleo's capture and the deaths of several members of his cult.

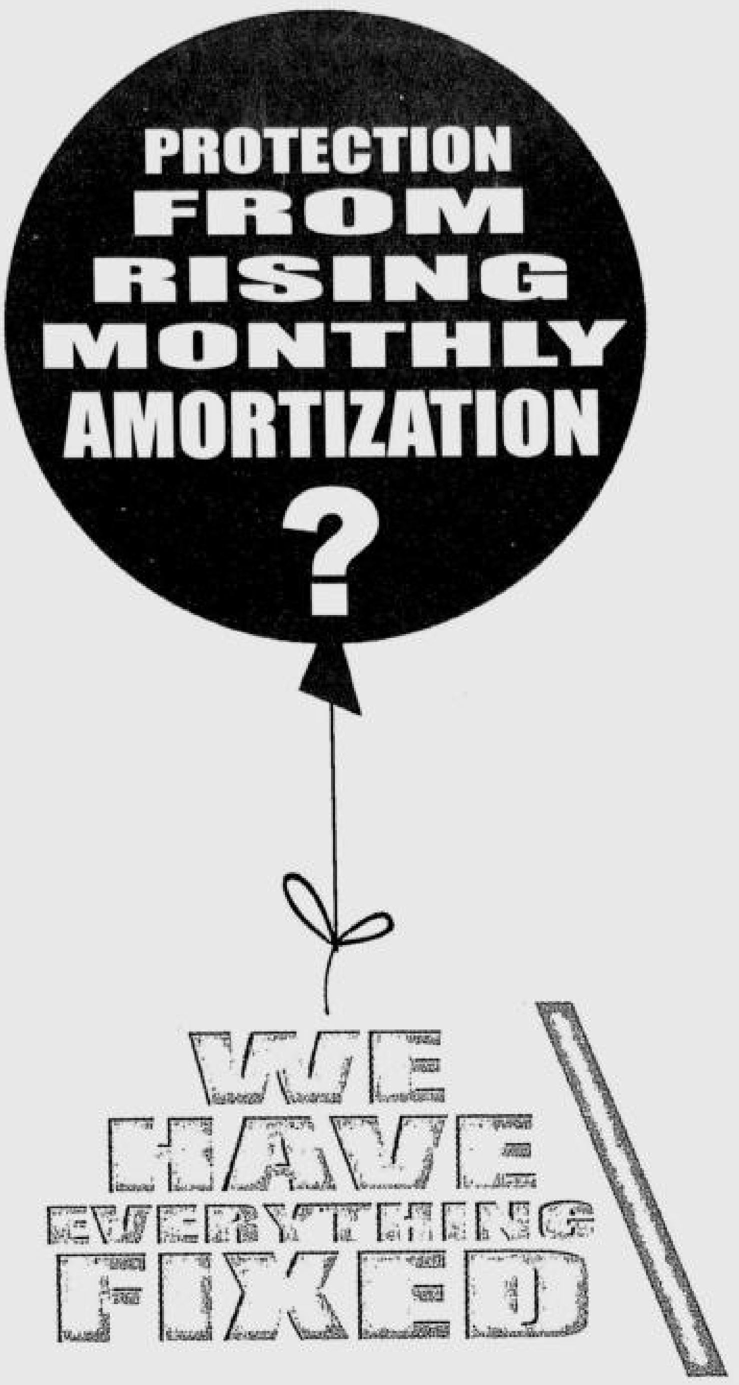
"I don't think they have capability to disrupt and threaten the President and the delegates," Olario said.

Ruben Jr., supreme master of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association based in San Jose, Dinagat Island, just off this city, caught media's attention after 16 of his armed cult members were killed by government forces when they kept the lawmen from arresting their leader.

Ecleo, charged with the killing of his wife Alona, is now in a Cebu jail.

Aside from the President, Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Affairs Jesus Dureza, Speaker Jose de Venecia and Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor are also expected to arrive here.

More than 700 local and foreign businessmen and national government delegates are expected to join the conference.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Las Piñas Chamber of Commerce and Industry

LPCCI - 1993

In cooperation with PCCI, MMCCI and other chambers hosts forum today on 'Bankers as Chambers' Partners'

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho

Secretary Mar Roxas

Jesus V. Tibayan
LPCCI President

Jesus T. Tanchanco, Sr.
MMCCI-NCR Vice-Pres.

Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Jr.
PCCI President

The Synergy

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura Guest of Honor & Keynote Speaker

Bankers and businessmen from different chambers of the Philippines' Chambers of Commerce and Industry gather at noon today to hear and interact with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura at Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati.

Spearheading the joint efforts dubbed "The Synergy," is the Las Pinas Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LPCCI) headed by Jesus V. Tibayan. Theme of the national gathering is "Bankers as Chambers' Business Partners."

For indeed, said Buenaventura, "bankers and businessmen involved in commerce and industry are natural partners. With a domestic capital market that is yet to realize its full potential and generally modest equity levels of local corporations, the banking sector has been the principal source of funding for Philippine business."

According to Buenaventura, banks are trustees of people's money, on the other hand.

"You might say then that the banking and business sectors both need to sustain public trust and confidence to ensure stability and long term growth," added Gov. Buenaventura.

Jesus V. Tibayan, President of LPCCI under whose auspices the national gathering is being held, welcomes the participation and involvement of the other chambers, including that of the Metro Manila-National Capital Región under Jesus T. Tanchanco, Sr.

Gov. Buenaventura will be introduced by Atty. Miguel Valera, Past President and Chair, International Relations of Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).

PCCI President Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Jr. will deliver an inspirational message. He will be introduced by Delia Jimenez of the Muntinlupa Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

A panel of moderators will interact with the Governor after his address. Members are Jimenez, Angelito Colona, Paranaque CCI President and Jeffrey Mangali, past president and trustee of LPCCI.

Jesus T. Tanchanco Sr., MMCCI-NCR vice president, delivers the response.

A pre-program feature is the presentation by Edwin A. Moran, Chairman of the PCCI Membership Committee, on Matching Opportunities, Ventures and Exchange (MOVE), and Pres. Nathaniel C. Zulueta of Q.C. Chamber about Metro Manila Business Conference.

MALACANAN PALACE
Manila

Message

My warmest greetings to the men and women of the Las Pinas Chamber of Commerce and Industry as you hold your 8th General Membership Meeting.

Last year, on the occasion of the introduction of your officers, I challenged you to make meaningful contributions to our common aspiration for development. Today, let me express to you my appreciation for responding to this challenge. With the cooperation of civil society and the private sector like your organization, we have been able to arrest the negative publicity that has hindered our economic growth.

With concrete reforms and verifiable accomplishments in the key areas of our rebuilding program, we were able to bring our country back on track of sustainable development. However, there are more challenges that have to be addressed in order to preserve our modest gains.

A healthy financial sector will definitely be vital in propelling business and economic activity in the years to come. It is my hope that this gathering, with the theme, "Bankers as Chambers' Business Partners," strengthen existing relations and open new avenues of partnership beweeen your member organizations and the banking sector.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

MANILA
27 August 2002

Las Pinas Chamber of
Commerce and Industry

Message

It is with great pleasure that the Las Pinas Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. spearheaded such a significant project that adheres towards economic growth by making an effort to build a lasting relationship between bankers and entrepreneurs. I highly recommend such an initiative act from our fellow businessmen to work hand in hand with our bankers to establish economic policies that will help generate more revenue for our country, and eventually lead to economic progress.

It is noteworthy that, through this occasion, other local chambers are united with the efforts of the LPCCI. Indeed, I am truly pleased that we have established a cooperative synergy with other local chambers in the country.

The fall of the World Trade Center in New York a year ago resulted into hard times, not just for the US but to the rest of the world as well. We have certainly seen and experienced its effects in the Philippine economy. However, we are in the process of steering our country on the path of sustainable development, and we hope to accomplish through this momentous fusion of the banking and business industries.

Let us remain steadfast in our vision, in our goal and in our commitment to become a vessel that will propel our nation for economic progress.

May the blessings of our ALMIGHTY GOD be with us.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

JESUS V. TIBAYAN
President

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance

Message

My warmest greetings and felicitations to the officers, board of trustees and members of the Las Pinas Chamber of Commerce and Industry on your 8th General Membership Meeting on August 27, 2002.

Your theme "Bankers as Chambers' Business Partners" is very appropriate in today's economic scenario. Bankers and banks contribute to the progress of commerce and industry by providing financial fuel, while chambers aid in the growth of the bank's loan portfolio and other businesses. As business partners, the value of bankers to chambers and vice-versa can never be underestimated.

On the government side, chambers help improve the fiscal condition of the country by paying the correct taxes. We at the Department of Finance, therefore, support the LPCCI for continuing to foster cooperation among all the establishments at the City of Las Pinas. As you embody the highest ideals of your organization, may you attain your vision of a highly industrialized and commercialized Las Pinas, a model city for others to follow.

In your general membership meeting, may the exchange of ideas and thoughts enrich the minds of your members and bring LPCCI success in the years to come.

JOSE ISIDRO N. CAMACHO
Secretary

Programme

Registration & Fellowship	LPCCI Secretariat
M.O.V.E.	**Edwin Moran** Chairman, PCCI, Membership Committee
M.M.B.C.	**Nathaniel C. Zulueta** Q.C. CCI President
Call to Order	**Jesus V. Tibayan** LPCCI President
Invocation	**Victor G. Apale** LPCCI Vice President
National Anthem	**Teresita A. Villanueva** LPCCI Trustee
Acknowledgment of Dignitaries	**Edwin Afzelius** LPCCI Past President
Welcome Remarks	**Jesus V. Tibayan** LPCCI President
Introduction of PCCI-President	**Delia B. Jimenez** Muntinlupa CCI President
Inspirational Talk	**Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Jr.** PCCI President
Introduction of Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker	**Atty. Miguel B. Varela** Honorary Chairman & Chair - Intl. Relations
Keynote Address	**Hon. Gov. Rafael B. Buenaventura** *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*
Open Forum: Moderators	**Angelito Colona/Delia Jimenez and Jeffrey Mangali** LPCCI Trustee and Past President
Response to Speaker	**Jesus T. Tanchanco, Sr.** MMCCI-NCR Vice President
Closing Remarks	**Angelito E. Colona** Paranaque CCI President

Emcees: **Marissa del Mar/Martin Andanar**

Metro Manila Chambers of
Commerce and Industry

Message

On behalf of the Metro Manila Chamber of Commerce and Industry, I extend my sincere and heartfelt congratulations to the Las Pinas Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LPCCI) on the occasion of its joint general membership meeting with the different chambers of commerce in the Philippines.

This occasion is historic not only for the LPCCI but also for the total endeavor for national development. For the first time ever, if I may recall, the LPCCI has succeeded in bringing together the country's businessmen in a national gathering to discuss important issues and problems affecting the industry.

In light of these developments that unity and concerted action among various sectors of the industry become necessary if the industry is to grow and prosper. I am glad that this may now be realized through this joint conference and I congratulate the officers of the LPCCI and those from the other chambers of commerce who are participants in this event.

Let us join hands in building a society free of socio-economic inequality, where people are self-reliant and where productivity is a way of life.

Rest assured that we in MMCCI-NCR are with you all the way in your worthwhile undertakings.

JESUS T. TANCHANCO, SR.

Department of Trade and Industry
Philippines

Message

Our warmest greetings to the Las Pinas Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. as you initiate your 8th General Membership Meeting at the Dusit Hotel Nikko on 27 August 2002.

The year 2002 is a transition year for the Philippine Economy as it continues to bring on tough but nevertheless surmountable challenges. With the global economic situation still in a depressed state, the Philippines must draw on its inner strengths and focus on the domestic economy as the engine for continued growth and economic stability. Our robust domestic demand can see us through this period of challenge as our exports await the rebound of our major trading partners.

Meanwhile, we need to strengthen the sails and outriggers of our economic ship, and steer steadily and strongly in the same direction. We need to exert efforts to fast-track our product and service competitiveness in global market, and address internal issues which include retraining and upgrading of workers' skills to make the country's competitive advantages sharper still.

It is therefore important for all sectors to put up a brave, daring, self-reliant, forward-looking and resourceful front during this challenging period. I am confident that the member companies of the Las Pinas Chamber of Commerce and Industry would be able to mount their own initiatives for assisting government in rebuilding investor confidence and in revitalizing prospects for economic recovery. The DTI remains ready to collaborate with you towards fortifying your region's competitive edge and creating sustained stability and prosperity for all Filipinos in this millennium.

Likewise, we hope that you would support the Arroyo Administration's fight against poverty by giving a sectoral and social bias for our poor in terms of visible direct pro-poor intervention programs in order to give the 40% of our people, who have little or nothing, a material stake in their country so that it becomes in their eyes worth working for.

Mabuhay!

MAR ROXAS
Secretary

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Manila

Message

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry participating in this joint meeting. In particular, I congratulate the Las Pinas Chamber of Commerce and Industry for initiating and hosting this national gathering of businessmen under the theme "Bankers as Chambers' Business Partners."

Indeed, bankers and businessmen involved in commerce and industry are natural partners. With a domestic capital market that is yet to realize its full potential and generally modest equity levels of local corporations, the banking sector has been the principal source of funding for Philippine business.

On the other hand, banks are trustees of people's money. You might say then that the banking and the business sectors both need to sustain public trust and confidence to ensure stability and long-term growth. It is imperative therefore that these two sectors adhere to the basic principles of good governance, at all times

The Philippine economy today has good fundamentals conducive to business with record low interest rates, low inflation and generally stable foreign exchange. However, we should be vigilant that corporate misdeeds of the type and magnitude we read and hear about from overseas are not duplicated here Erosion of public confidence is the one thing we should guard against.

It is my hope, therefore, that bankers and businessmen, in words and in deeds, commit to the path of good governance. It is our responsibility as individuals and citizens of this country.

I wish you all a meaningful and successful meeting.

RAFAEL B. BUENAVENTURA
Governor

Philippine Chamber of
Commerce and Industry

Message

Greetings from the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry!

Congratulations to the Las Pinas Chamber of Commerce and Industry for helping bring together key government and business leaders to this Joint General Membership Meeting of local chambers of commerce in the country.

Indeed, the timing of this meeting is most opportune considering recent developments in the domestic financial sector and those about to unfold which will impact on the financial landscape of the country. It is predicted that like its neighbors, the Philippines will undergo profound changes in the short, medium and long term.

We will be privileged to hear the views of the Honorable Rafael B. Buenaventura, Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, who is known for his proactive approach to financial development.

I hope that his presentation this afternoon will also provide new and deeper insights on how we can better understand the financial reform process. It should also provide us a better perspective on how we in the business sector can strengthen our role in assisting government restore confidence in the economy.

This meeting will gather some of the finest minds in the financial and business sectors. I have no doubt that we can shed some light here today on a matter concerning our prospects for sustained economic growth.

Thank you and let us all look forward to a fruitful meeting.

SERGIO ORTIZ-LUIS, JR.
President

Under a stable leadership, LPCCI going stronger at 9

Brief History

The Las Pinas Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (LPCCI) is a non-stock, non-profit organization, established on October 29, 1993. It was one of the two local chambers that originated from its mother chamber, the then South Metro Manila Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SMCCI). Its proponents were then Pres. Antonio L. Tamayo and Peter Sy Gaisano, Directors Fernando Francisco and Enrique Lim.

Its principal office address is at Rm. 303, Tibayan Group Business Gallery Bldg., 318 Alabang-Zapote Road, Las Pinas City.

LPCCI was organized mainly "to foster close relations, understanding, and cooperation among industrial manufacturing and commercial establishments in the City of Las Pinas so that full economic, commercial and industrial development and progress could be fastly attained.

Former Las Pinas Vice Mayor Antonio Tamayo was elected President during its chartering and incorporation. As its Charter President, various laudable projects were undertaken like the Scholarship program for the handicapped both in secondary and tertiary levels; dialogue symposium with the Las Pinas government officials addressing the environmental concerns of the community, specifically the waste disposal management system; and the creation of the multi-sectoral groups addressing the problems on drug addiction and street children with the collaboration of the Las Pinas municipal government.

This year 2002, President Jesus V. Tibayan is steering the Chamber under the theme, "A Passion for Infinite Progress". The Chamber has now 92-strong membership and has lined up realistic and achievable projects for 2002.

Activities of the Chamber

1. **Kapihan sa Tibayan Palace** - This weekly "Kapihan sa Tibayan Palace" of the Las Pinas Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (LPCCI) has now slowly evolved to a name for business exchange among the local businessmen in the city of Las Pinas. Not only that, guests from the different chambers of Metro Manila and the Phil. Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PCCI) are also among those who now participate actively in the activity.

The place provides an ideal venue for guests from government and big business league, along with newsmen and other media persons, to exchange ideas in an open forum style, with topics concerning their own choice and interest.

The forum starts at 7 in the morning every Friday with complimentry breakfast, and winds up at 10. Indeed, this activity fosters fellowship and camaraderie among the guests.

2 **Government Personnel Awards** - One remarkable activity of the Chamber is recognizing those deserving government personnel in Las Pinas City for their exemplary performance and dedication to their duty. This project is in coordination with Las Pinas City Mayor Vergel "Nene" Aguilar who provides impetus for the award.

By recognizing these lowly government personnel in Las Pinas City every month, their morale is not only boosted, but it also provides an opportunity for them to be more effective in the performance of their duty, thus redounding to the benefits of the community as well.

3. **God's Bread and Water for Life** - Another heartwarming undertaking of the Chamber is its joint project with the Tibayan Group Foundation, Inc. and the Dept. of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) dubbed "God's Bread and Water for Life" Street children and their parents at the nearby vicinity are gathered every first Friday of the month, and were treated to sumptuous breakfast, and given goodies, toys, and other food stuff. Sometimes, parlor games were played, and clowns hired.

Perhaps the most touching part of the activity is when it is already time to leave and the kids and their parents are profusely thanking the people behind the "God's Bread and Water for Life", for they know that the sponsors wholeheartedly "shared life's simple pleasures for the benefit of all."

4. **Young Academic Achievers of Las Pinas City 2002** - This project is a Recognition Program of Las Pinas City's Most Outstanding High School Students. LPCCI gives recognition to those deserving high school students who have shown exemplary academic performance, especially the Valedictorians.

All public and private high school institutions within Las Pinas City are represented. As a criterion, every young achiever should be active in community outreach programs directly benefiting the marginalized sectors of Las Pinas, particularly children and teenagers who cannot afford an education.

MMCCI-NCR Vice President Jesus T. Tanchanco, Sr. (2nd from right) enjoys LPCCI's brand of fellowship during its regular breakfast forum at the Tibayan Palace, together with Jesus V. Tibayan, (right) LPCCI President, and lawyer Danny Mendez, PRO.

LPCCI OFFICIALS

A Passion for Infinite Progress

LPCCI - 1993

Jesus V. Tibayan
President

Victor G. Apale
Vice-President

Rico H. Riguera
Secretary

Rolando R. Pena
Treasurer

Felix P. Lazo
Auditor

Atty. Danilo O. Mendez
PRO

Edwin Afzelius, Jr.
Marshal

Fernando T. Fransciso
Trustee

Rosalino Riguera
Trustee

Peter Sy Gaisano
Trustee

Enrique Lim
Trustee

Dr. Grace R. de Leon
Trustee

Teresita Viljanueva
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Nestor B. Alcantara
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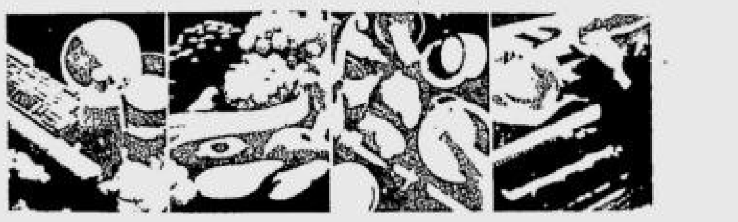

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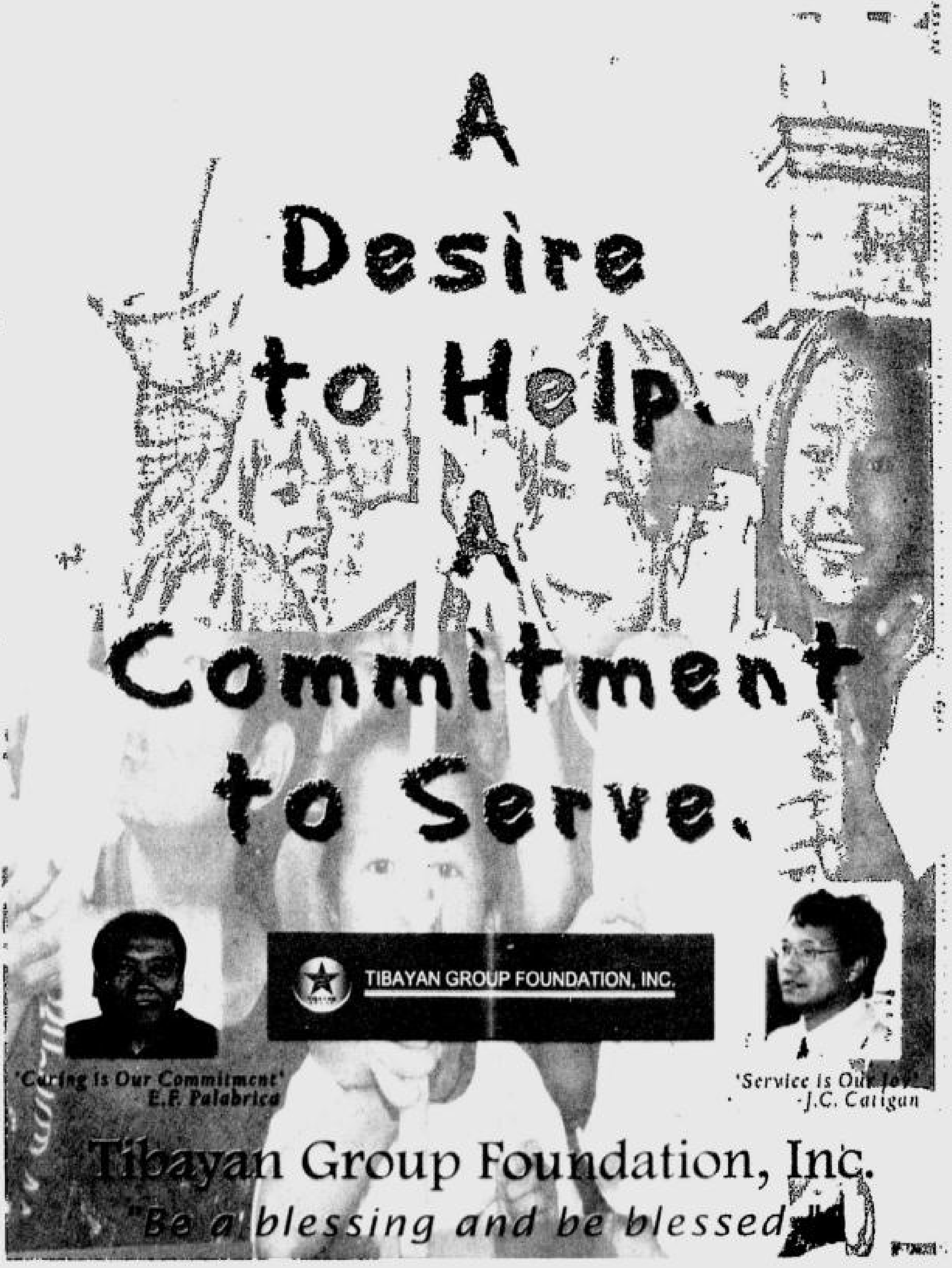

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"Be a blessing and be blessed"

ROUNDUP

Fire hits Tacloban

TACLOBAN CITY—Fire hit on Thursday night a commercial building owned by the family of Presidential Assistant for Eastern Visayas Victor Domingo in the downtown area. No one was hurt in the fire that started at about 9:20 p.m., said Senior Fire Officer Dennis Ablay. The damage was pegged at P10 million. Ablay said they were still looking into the cause of the fire, but Domingo said it was caused by faulty electrical wiring. The building was occupied by 20 stalls selling used imported clothes and a lotto outlet.

Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Cebu cops on alert

CEBU CITY—Police units in mid-north Cebu have been on alert following an ambush staged by suspected communist rebels in Sogod town Aug. 15. Senior Supt. Maximiano Calimlim, Cebu police chief, said they received an intelligence report that the rebels planned to launch an offensive in the mid-north area. Two members of the police Regional Mobile Group (RMG) and a civilian were wounded in an ambush staged by alleged New People's Army rebels on Aug. 16 in Barangay Pansoy, Sogod, about 60.5 kilometers north of here. Wounded were PO1 Edgardo Bicoy, 36; PO1 Elumar Mendoza and Michelle Completado. They were on board a mini-cruiser on their way to an RMG detachment in Barangay Pansoy when fired upon.

Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Cop, robber wounded

BAGUIO CITY—Two suspected robbers and a policeman were wounded after a gunfight in Tuba, Benguet, on Thursday night. Reports identified the wounded policeman as PO3 Jovito Gale of the Tuba police and the suspects as John Anayasan and Joseph Anayasan, both of Bauko, Mt. Province. Police said the suspects and two other companions held up two women in Barangay City Camp here at about 8 p.m. Thursday. Tuba policemen blocked the suspects' green Besta van along Marcos Highway in Barangay Taloy Sur in Tuba and a shootout ensued. The suspects' two companions escaped.

Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Help from elders

IBA, Zambales—The Philippine National Police will create a community-based advisory body to help police combat crime in the country, Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., said here on Monday. He said the body, which he called the "council of elders," will be composed of members of non-government and civic groups from the provincial to barangay levels. The council, he said, will help police monitor and report crimes in the communities. It will also advice police on the implementation of anti-crime programs.

Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk

P5M for mangoes

IBA, Zambales—Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor has pushed for the development and promotion of Zambales mangoes for the international market with the release of P5 million for equipment and warehouse needs of mango farmers here. Montemayor said with this assistance, Zambales can now compete with other provinces as a major supplier and exporter of mangoes. He gave the P5-million check to the Zambales Mango Farmers Development Cooperative for the construction of a "one-stop shop" agribusiness center in this town.

Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Tobacco harvest up

VIGAN CITY—Tobacco production for the first seven months this year in the Ilocos region rose by 8 percent compared to the same period last year. Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said the production of Virginia, burley and native tobacco from January to July this year reached 74,206 metric tons, compared to 68,195 MT last year. More than half of the total tobacco production are Virginia tobacco while burley comprised 35 percent.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

NPA rebels nabbed

CABANATUAN CITY—Two suspected New People's Army rebels were captured while two government soldiers were wounded after an encounter in Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, on Aug. 16, Army reports said. Col. Jovenal Narcise, chief of the Army's 702nd Infantry Brigade, said soldiers found an NPA band in Sitio Bursar in Barangay Sabit in Cuyapo. Instead of giving up, the rebels fired at the soldiers. The gunfight lasted more than an hour, Narcise said. The captured rebels were Jojo Supnet, 19, and James Bara, 20, both of Cuyapo. Narcise identified the wounded soldiers as Lt. Virgilio Viterbo and Pfc. Junwin Jalasco. *Anselmo Roque and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

SK chair unseated

LEGAZPI CITY—Six days afer taking her oath, Bhrendalyn Bergancia, elected Sangguniang Kabataan chair of Barangay Bitano, was unseated last Thursday for being over-aged. Her losing opponent, Almieta Altavano, filed a complaint before the Municipal Trial Court in Cities questioning Bergancia's real age. In her complaint, Altavano submitted Bergancia's birth certificate showing Bergancia's date of birth, which is Nov. 21, 1983. The court ruled that Bergancia has violated the age requirement of Republic Act 6170. Elected SK councilors are yet to decide among themselves who shall be the next SK chairman as Judge Raymund Jacob announced that neither Almieta Altavano nor Edith Acuna could take the post. Both Altavano and Acuna lost their chairmanship bid during the elections

Ronnie Lorejo PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SURPRISE ORDER

Police chief sacked amid 'jueteng' probe

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—This city's police director was relieved Monday to "quell suspicions" that members of the local police were "getting protection money" from a suspected jueteng financier who is being investigated by the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Chief Supt. Oscar Calderon, Central Luzon police chief, said the relief of Supt. Sonny Cunanan was "temporary."

He said Cunanan's relief would be lifted after the holding of the Association of Barangay Captains elections in September.

He designated Supt. Percival Barba, former logistics officer of the Central Luzon police, as officer-in-charge of the city's police force.

Calderon reorganized the city police a week after the Department of Interior and Local Government began its investigation of Melchor Caluag, who was also elected recently as barangay captain of Dolores, the commercial and business district of Pampanga.

The investigation sought to find out if Caluag, also known as Ngo-ngo, had bribed 21 of his 34 colleagues in exchange for their votes in the ABC chairmanship elections.

The DILG started the investigation on the heels of reports that Caluag offered the barangay captains free trips to Hong Kong, P100,000 in pocket money and P20,000 in "goodwill money."

Rodolfo Ferraren, DILG regional director, has yet to release the results of the investigation of Caluag's alleged bribery.

Cunanan, however, said he did not know of his relief until the INQUIRER had called him.

He was surprised with the relief order, saying he had been "active" in the campaign against illegal gambling, especially the jueteng operations allegedly being financed by Caluag.

He said at least 30 people arrested during anti-jueteng operations the city police conducted in the last two months had remained in jail.

Although surprised, Cunanan said he would follow Calderon's order.

Calderon said he also ordered Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, Pampanga police chief, to "file more cases" against Caluag.

"That's one of the ways we could cripple his operations," Calderon said.

Caluag is out on bail for three pending illegal gambling cases.

Despite the crackdown by the police on jueteng, the illegal numbers game in the cities of San Fernando and Angeles—areas that Caluag reportedly controls—continue, with bets even openly wagered in government offices.

Jueteng is said to be also rampant in all 20 towns of Pampanga, several towns in Bulacan, key cities in Nueva Ecija, and some towns in Zambales and Tarlac even after the DILG relieved Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya as regional police director in July.

Berroya and six other police officials in the country were relieved for their alleged failure to stop jueteng operations in their areas.

Their relief was ordered by the National Police Commission. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

N. Ecija killings put cops on alert

CABANATUAN CITY—Police officials in the province have ordered an intensified patrol following the killing of three tricycle drivers in the city in only a week.

Reports said the suspects took the victims' tricycles after they had killed them. One of the victims, according to police reports, was beheaded.

On Friday, police found the head of Pedro Inocencio, 53, in Guimba town. His body was recovered in a subdivision here.

Inocencio, a resident of Barangay Padre Crisostomo, was reported missing by his family last week.

The suspects took Inocencio's motorcycle and left the sidecar in a village in San Leonardo town.

Also this week, two tricycle drivers in Talavera town and in Sta. Rosa town were found dead in separate areas. The sidecars of their tricycles were recovered but the motorcycles that powered them were not found.

Supt. Laverne Manangbao, city police chief, ordered the setting up of more checkpoints to check tricycles and motorcycles leaving Cabanatuan.

He also ordered his men to gather information on where the stolen motorcycles were being sold.

Reports here said at least 100 tricycles have been stolen in different Nueva Ecija towns since January this year.

On Tuesday, the Nueva Ecija-based Red Vigilante Group (RVG) executed a suspected leader of a car theft syndicate in the province.

The RVG, through a spokesperson who called the INQUIRER identifying himself as Ka Ryan, said one of its units killed Eric Francisco at Barangay Luna in Llanera town at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday. *Anselmo Roque and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

DENNIS SABANGAN

OMINOUS SHADOW

The military offensive against bandits in Jolo, Sulu casts a shadow across the predominantly Muslim town that won't disrupt day-to-day affairs there but could send fears of innocent civilians getting caught in the crossfire.

Ka Roger: Attack on US troops 'self-defense'

LUCENA CITY—The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) has declared that any attack on US troops in the country by the New People's Army is "self-defense" on the part of the guerrillas.

Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, CPP spokesperson, said the NPA considers attacks on US troops and Philippine soldiers as acts of self-defense.

"Such actions are necessary to protect the gains of the people in the territories of the People's Democratic Government achieved in the course of waging revolution," Rosal said in a statement furnished the INQUIRER.

Earlier, Rosal also ridiculed President Macapagal-Arroyo "for laboring under the gigantic illusion that the freeze order (of communist assets) would paralyze the Philippine revolutionary movement".

"The CPP would never bow to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," Rosal said.

He said the guerrillas have no assets abroad and sustain their operations by stealing guns from soldiers.

"The weapons in the NPA's growing arsenal are obtained from tactical offensives launched against the AFP and PNP. Many of the NPA's weapons were voluntarily surrendered by soldiers, policemen and Cafgu (Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit) elements," he said.

The former chief of the NPA Melito Glor Command said in carrying out attacks against US targets, the NPA will not harm civilians, whether they be Filipinos or foreigners.

He also said the attacks on US troops would be taken only if provoked by the entry of American soldiers in so-called CPP-controlled territories.

Rosal said should US troops enter guerrilla zones and bases, the people themselves would defend these areas to protect their "hard-won gains achieved through the help of the revolutionary movement".

Rosal said farmers enjoy better lives in NPA territories. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Canadian firms keen on joining Diwalwal gold rush

DAVAO CITY—Canadian mining firms have not wavered in their desire to invest on gold extraction on Mt. Diwata in Compostela Valley.

Robert Collette, Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines, however, said that Canadian mining firms would like to see the outcome of the government's takeover of the gold-rush area, which is also known as Diwalwal.

Earlier, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources ordered the closure of mining operations in Diwalwal because of violence among rival mining outfits.

The environment department said the area would be eventually opened, not only to small-scale miners, but also to foreign mining firms.

Collette's statements came after Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Ruth Pierce announced that four Australian mining companies were looking at developing mining areas in the country, including Mt. Diwata.

Pierce said the "improved peace and order situation" of the country makes it very appealing to the Australian mining firms to invest.

She said some of these mining firms were the same ones who "flipped" after Western Mining Corporation (WMC) folded its copper and gold mining operations in Tampakan, South Cotabato.

Others backed out because of opposition from non-government organizations and environmental groups. *Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Employment office faces illegal recruitment probe

TARLAC CITY—Instead of providing work to more than 100 unemployed Tarlac jobseekers, the local Public Employment Service Office (Peso) is instead trying to parry complaints of alleged illegal recruitment.

At least 120 applicants for jobs in South Korea who submitted their applications through the employment office, face the specter of losing their money in deposits made to Jerphi Overseas Placement and Training Corp., a recruiting firm based in Ermita, Manila.

"Other applicants filed their papers as early as February and paid the required fees, but they have yet to leave the country for the jobs promised them," said a complainant.

The Department of Labor and Employment here said "upon payment of the placement fee, the recruiting agency has 90 days within which to send the applicant to his destination."

Allan Ibay, labor and employment officer, said it is the responsibility of the Peso to protect the interest of the applicants, especially since the employment office had referred the applicants to the Manila-based recruitment agency.

Nida Duco, Peso manager at the Tarlac provincial capitol, said he and other Peso staff members were doing everything they could to help the applicants recover their money. She denied that she or the Peso had a hand in the payment of the placement fees.

"The applicants pay directly to the agency," she said.

Gov. Jose Yap reprimanded Duco and told her to help the complainants.

"It is not illegal recruitment," Duco told the INQUIRER. "There was just a slight misunderstanding between Jerphi and the applicants."

Duco showed the photocopies of the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency license of the recruiting agency and the supposed visas of several applicants.

The documents show that Jerphi has a valid license from March 8, 2002 to March 7, 2004. Duco also showed the photocopy of the agreement between the agency and the Korea Federation of Small Business to provide manpower to Korean firms.

Jerphi, on the other hand, wrote Yap on Aug. 22 to tell the governor that the recruitment agency was "most willing to refund" all fees paid to the company. *Ronaldo Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Erap bank assets frozen by Sandiganbayan

From page A1

Of the four, two were said to belong not to Estrada himself but to his co-accused. These were:

- A house and lot at 25 Freedom Ave., Area I, Veterans Village, Barangay Pasong Tamo, Quezon City, owned by Ricaforte, Estrada's alleged "auditor" for the P540 million in protection money from the ousted President allegedly collected from the operators of jueteng, an illegal numbers game.
- A house and lot at 18 Manansala St., Corinthian Gardens, Quezon City, belonging to Ang, an Estrada associate who allegedly helped put up the gambling payola network. Ang also allegedly diverted P130 million in tobacco tax revenues into Estrada's pockets.
- Deposits made by Ricaforte in six branches of Equitable PCI Bank totaling P11.13 million, believed to be part of Estrada's jueteng payola collections.

Ang and Ricaforte are now living in the United States and have been fighting extradition efforts by the Philippines.

- Bank deposits under the name of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation amounting to P201.4 million as of September 2000. The foundation was allegedly a dummy corporation put up by Estrada with the help of his then legal adviser Edward Serapio, another co-accused, to launder jueteng money.

All properties

The 10-page resolution, dated Aug. 23, ended the list by including "other real or personal properties by all the accused."

At a hearing yesterday, Estrada's court-appointed lawyers said they would file a motion to clarify the "extent" of the "other properties" referred to in the ruling.

This prompted the court to hold in abeyance the implementation of that particular portion of the ruling.

The court did not grant the prosecution's bid to include another P10 million deposited in two accounts of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation at the United Coconut Planters' Bank branch on Makati Avenue.

"There is so far no evidence with respect to the source of the amount (in UCPB)," the ruling said.

Asked about the Boracay mansion and other houses Estrada built for his mistresses, Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo spoke of another complaint for forfeiture initiated by civil society groups, which, according to him, already covered the controversial houses.

The complaint is still pending with and "should already be moving" at the Office of the Ombudsman, Marcelo said.

He said that prosecutors could still argue in court for the coverage of the mansions under the writ of attachment, but that they initially opted to include pieces of property directly traceable to Estrada's jueteng payola racket.

Owners not identified

Acting Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio seemed to have a more candid explanation.

Prosecutors have "not yet identified the owners (of the Boracay mansion), how it was acquired, and the source of the money used to purchase it," Gervacio said.

Like Marcelo, Gervacio said prosecutors would work for the inclusion of more items in court custody. These include whatever pieces of property Gatchalian's Wellex group purchased using the P500-million loan drawn from the Velarde account.

Gervacio said Wellex had reportedly intended to use the loan to acquire certain hotels and open casinos in them.

But Gatchalian himself would not be criminally liable because he had nothing to do with how money flowed into the Velarde account, the acting Ombudsman said.

Estrada, who was forced to step down in January 2001 following mass protests over his alleged corruption, is being held without bail for the capital charge of plunder.

He also faces two charges of perjury and illegal use of an alias to hide secret bank accounts.

The former actor denied any wrongdoing and refused to enter pleas during separate arraignments on the charges. The Sandiganbayan entered not guilty pleas on his behalf.

THE SANDIGANBAYAN'S order was silent on the more popular property allegedly owned by ousted President Joseph Estrada, including the "Boracay" mansion on 11th Street, New Manila, Quezon City, as shown in file photo.

Civil society groups ask: Why only now?

From page A1

But De Vera was optimistic that the P200 million supposedly stashed in Estrada's Muslim Youth Foundation could still be recovered.

Former House Prosecutor Oscar Moreno said the freeze order should lead to the recovery of the assets amassed by Estrada during his short-lived presidency.

He said the Sandiganbayan should be able to trace where the P3.3 billion deposited in the "Jose Velarde" account went.

"The freezing is just a minor aspect of the entire recovery effort," Moreno said.

Rep. Raul Gonzalez, also a former House prosecutor, hailed the Sandiganbayan order. "That is definitely a welcome development," he said.

Investigate Desierto

Araullo called for Desierto's investigation for his failure to immediately file the motion for the attachment of Estrada's assets and those of Yolanda Ricarforte and Charlie "Atong" Ang.

"It's highly suspicious," she said, noting that Desierto filed the motion four months after Estrada was charged with plunder in April last year.

Araullo pointed out that prosecutors sought a freeze order within a few days after the Manalili case was filed.

Dominga Manalili, a former cashier of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, was later sentenced to two life terms in the first plunder conviction since the offense was made a crime in 1991.

A militant fisherfolk group said the Sandiganbayan should have issued the freeze order days after People Power II.

"In this case the Sandiganbayan allowed the Macapagal-Arroyo camp to exploit the legitimate cause of the people against the ex-President for Ms Macapagal's political advantage," the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said.

Fernando Hicap, Pamalakaya national chair, recalled that as early as February last year, his group pressed the Macapagal administration and the Sandiganbayan to immediately freeze the assets illegally acquired by Estrada, his immediate families and circle of cronies.

"Though we welcome the decision, we are not satisfied with the court's ruling having the case decided far from the right time it should have been done," Hicap said.

He said the delay was due to efforts by the administration to forge a political settlement with the Estrada camp.

"Why only now? Is it because negotiations for a political settlement with the Estrada camp failed and the Macapagal-Arroyo clique has to make a late offensive against the Erap group to her favor?" Hicap asked.

He said Ms Macapagal was exploiting the people's legitimate issues against Estrada, not to obtain justice for the Filipino people but to gain leverage in the current political tussle between her and the Estrada camp.

Hicap urged the Sandiganbayan to conclude the Estrada trial before the end of the year.

"Let us see if they can convict Estrada on criminal charges filed against him before 2002 ends. This is a major challenge to push the Gloria-Erap political tug-of-war to conclusion," he said.

Loi: Don't we have right to get rich?

From page A1

"*Sa akin naman, wala na ba kaming karapatang magkaroon ng pera? Wala na ba kaming karapatang maghanapbuhay* (Don't we have the right to have money? Don't we have the right to earn a living)?"

What else do they want to freeze, *yung pinaghirapan namin* (the things we worked so hard for)?" Ejercito told reporters in the Senate.

But Ejercito insisted that no jueteng money entered their conjugal accounts.

She said the story that the former President received money from jueteng operators was just fabricated by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

Ejercito said Singson had been meeting with Solicitor General Raul Marcelo on what story to feed the public.

"*Yan si Chavit, nawawala na yan sa sarili* (is out of his mind)," the senator said.

Singson had testified at the impeachment trial of Estrada that the then President received at least P540 million in jueteng payoffs from November 1998 to August 2000.

He also claimed that Ejercito received P20 million in kickbacks from tobacco taxes. The senator had denied Singson's allegation.

Ejercito said her husband was a millionaire even before any of the rich senators became one. She said Estrada was already earning millions of pesos as an actor before he became a politician and made millions more from his investments.

Estrada reported in his 1999 Statement of Assets and Liabilities a net worth of P35 million, but his Jose Velarde bank accounts had total deposits of P3.2 billion, according to government prosecutors.

Ejercito said it was not proper for the Sandiganbayan to freeze Estrada's accounts or assets since most of them were part of their conjugal property.

"They have already frozen everything so what else do they want to freeze?" she said.

Told that part of the accounts to be frozen were those jointly held by Estrada and his mistress Laarni Erniquez, Ejercito said: "That I do not know. I am not Laarni."

The Estrada camp, through spokesperson lawyer Raymond Fortun, downplayed the ruling's impact, saying the ex-President was "confident that any properties seized (by the court) will be returned to their rightful owners."

"Estrada denies ownership of the funds deposited in the names of Yolanda Ricaforte and the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation. The freezing of these amounts will not affect him," Fortun said in a statement.

Estrada never bought any property while he was the sitting President, according to Fortun.

"Let me put on record that I have not bought a single property since I became President on June 30, 1998. My conscience is perfectly clear on this matter," Estrada said in a statement.

"If the Ombudsman, solicitor general and private prosecutors can present evidence that I personally acquired properties when I became President, then they can have those properties forfeited in favor of the government," he said.

Estrada urged the media not to take the prosecution's accusations hook, line and sinker. ***With a report from Volt Contreras***

Miriam scuttles plan to teach at La Salle

From page A1

groups blocked her entry allegedly because of her association with Estrada.

Santiago said she met yesterday with Bro. Andrew Gonzales, university vice president for academics and research, to formally decline the teaching position.

She said she voluntarily declined to teach "to spare La Salle the mischief of political bigotry." She was scheduled to teach two subjects—International Law and Politics and Governance—starting next month.

Santiago said opposition to her teaching at La Salle came from "a handful of alumni who blackmailed the university authorities by threatening to take the matter to the media."

She said she learned that the moves against her were "not based on academic grounds but on the political grounds that she was and remains an ally of deposed President Estrada."

'Trapos'

"This is sick. The *trapos* (traditional politicians) have violated the constitutionally protected right to academic freedom which the dictionary defines as the freedom of a teacher to investigate any controversial, social, economic or political problems without interference or penalty from officials or organized groups," she said.

She added: "This is what happens when there is no rule of law. *Trapos* are able to use insecure fools and assorted individuals who feel free to vent their emotional disturbance on the innocent public. They need to be taught that there are certain legal and social liabilities for purposive damage to the lives and careers of others."

Santiago's statement included quotes from Crispin Remulla, Estrada's spokesperson, who said the incident was part of the demolition plot against 2004 presidential wannabes.

The opposition, Remulla said, was suspicious that a certain political group moved to block Santiago's academic appointment after the release of a Pulse Asia survey which showed that she remained highly popular nationwide despite her defeat in the 2001 senatorial elections.

4th in survey

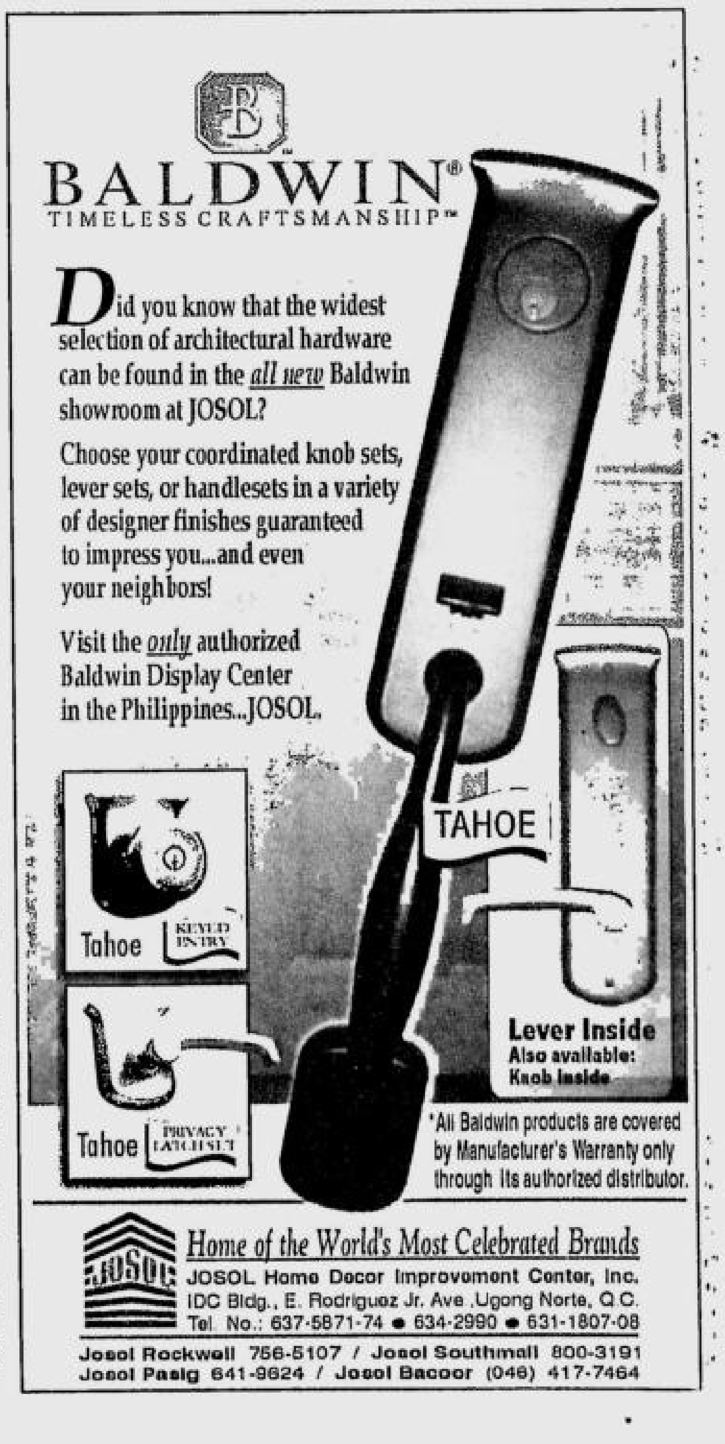
"This is not a coincidence. Miriam is so popular that they had to cheat her big time during the Senate race and they're still trying to put her down, even if the lady is just trying to resume her highly respected academic career," he said.

Remulla said that the Pulse survey showed her fourth in senatorial ranking, next to Sen. Loren Legarda, resigned Education Secretary Raul Roco and Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

He said a certain government employee and La Salle graduate, whom he did not name, was campaigning among other alumni to send e-mails and postal mails to La Salle authorities seeking to cancel Santiago's appointment.

In disgust, Santiago will leave for China to visit Beijing University and meet with Chinese government officials.

Her office said she was still considering her teaching applications in the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University and the University of Asia and the Pacific



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EMERGENCY PURPOSES

All 15 cagers will go to Asiad–Uichico

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

ALL 15 players of the Philippine Basketball Team will fly to Busan (South Korea) for the Asian Games on Sept. 28 to Oct. 14.

Head coach Jong Uichico said there was need to bring all the 15 to the site of the Asiad for emergency purposes, especially if a last-minute change of the lineup is to be required.

"I have made it very clear to everybody that all 15 players will join the trip to the Busan Asian Games," Uichico told Sports Radio's (918 AM band) Ricky Yap Santos and Cecille Quimlat yesterday. "I have told the boys about it."

In a live interview heard nationwide over the popular afternoon program of Santos and Quimlat, Uichico said he has talked to the three "reserves" of the team after naming his regular 12 players for the Asiad.

Asked if he gave orders to "reserves" not to tell media about their status, Uichico said: "No. I never tell them what to say or what not to say. I just tell them that hopefully, what we do and talk about inside the hard court should remain there."

UICHICO: "Nobody's going to be left behind."

Although he refused to divulge the official "12 regulars" of the RP quintet, it is generally believed that the "reserves" are Boyet Fernandez of Purefoods, Chris Jackson of Shell and Mick Pennisi of Red Bull.

Unimpeachable sources said Uichico named Olsen Racela, Kenneth Duremdes, Dondon Hontiveros, Andy Seigle, Danny Seigle, Asi Taulava, Eric Menk, Rudy Hatfield, Noy Castillo, Danny Ildefonso, Dennis Espino and Jeffrey Cariaso to the RP quintet tasked to surpass the bronze finish of the Centennial Team in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad.

Uichico remained optimistic that all 15 will make it to Busan.

"I have until Sept. 26 to submit the final lineup," said Uichico. "We can never tell what's going to happen from now up to Sept. 26."

When Quimlat asked Uichico if he could also billet his three alternates to the Athletes Village in Busan, Uichico said, "That's my wish."

He said he was now looking for a gym in Busan where his 15 boys could practice "days before we hold our first game against the United Arab Emirates (UAE)."

The Philippines will battle UAE for its first game on Sept. 28.

Uichico said he would leave with his boys on Sept. 22 "if that's possible. Otherwise, we are set to leave on Sept. 25, which is just three days before we meet UAE."

He said his team's early arrival is a must "since Busan has a high altitude." ***With a report from June Navarro***

Pak mighty comeback makes her $180T richer

KUTZTOWN, Pennsylvania—Se Ri Pak staged another final-round charge Sunday, birdieing six of the last seven holes, including the last four, to post a three-shot victory at the Betsy King Classic.

Two months after rallying from four strokes behind in the final round of the LPGA Championship, Pak erased an early three-stroke deficit to join Annika Sorentam as the only players on the LPGA Tour with as many as three victories this season.

The South Korean star began the day three shots behind third-round leader Michelle Ellis and bogeyed two of her first three holes. But she eagled No. 5 and had eight birdies over the final 13 holes en route to a nine-under 63. The 24-year-old shattered Sorenstam's tournament record with a 72-hole total of 21-under 267.

Already second in the Player of the Year standings, Pak used the $180,000 first prize to move into second place on the money list with just over $1.1 million.

Unheralded Angela Stanford fired her second straight 66 at the Berkleigh Country Club for a career-best second-place finish at 18-under 270.

That was two strokes better than Australia's Karrie Webb, who closed with a 69.

Ellis failed to take advantage of the rain-softened course, struggling to a two-over 74 to fall into a three-way tie for sixth place at 13-under 275.

Pak, who as late as Wednesday considered withdrawing as she battled the after-effects of illness, said she had felt herself improving with every round.

"My body was sick for a couple of weeks, I got headache easily and was coughing. But I decided to play," she said. "Every day better score, swing better, feel better. ***AFP***

Thai rules ATP leg

BANGKOK—Thailand on Monday hailed the weekend victory of tennis star Paradorn Srichapan, whose triumph in the TD Waterhouse Cup in Commack, New York made him the first Thai to win an ATP tour singles event. Paradorn, Asia's top-ranked player, rallied Sunday to beat Juan Ignacio Chela, 5-7, 6-2, 6-2, and capture the $480,000-dollar title. ***AFP***

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: US Open 2002 - Men's/Women's First Round at 7 a.m. (r – 7 p.m.), Second Round at 10:30 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: US Amateur Open Golf Championship, Final Round at 8 a.m. (r) on ESPN

PGA Europ Tour 2002 Highlights at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

BOWLING: CGU Asian Bowling Tour, China Quarterfinals at 10 a.m. (r) on ESPN

SOCCER: English Premiere Football League at 12 nn. On Starsports at 9:30 p.m. on ESPN

Killer instinct

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IT was a day of rallies yesterday.

Three early birdies propped up Australian Craig Parry's climb to the victory podium yesterday in the NEC Invitational. Three straight scores in the low sixties offset his opening round 72, enabling him to win his first PGA victory worth $1 million.

Parry's 65-66-65 at the par-71 Hazeltine in Sammamish, Washington, were rounds that make legends out of mortals. Amazingly, it sort of duplicated American Rich Beem's PGA triumph a week back. Reason? The big finishing kick photo-copied Beem's beat-Tiger performance. Somehow, that reminded us that Woods was human after all, that Woods can't win it all the time, what with his flair for theater and all. Yesterday, Woods, despite his finishing 68, was 5 shots back—still good for fourth though worth $215,000. When Woods finished second behind Beem in the PGA, he netted $594,000. You win $809,000 in two weeks, why, I'll take that anytime.

But, hey, look at this. Se Ri Pak is doing her own bit of drama on the distaff side.

With 6 birdies in the last seven holes, including the last 4, Pak's rally gave her a 3-shot victory yesterday in the Betsy King Classic. It earned her $180,000. But more than the money, Pak will be known as the Korean who did more than a Tiger Woods act.

Remember those 4 birdies in the last 4 holes that Woods did in the PGA? His Goliath-like effort was one shot short of forcing Beem into a sudden-death for the $990,000 top purse.

But 6 birdies in your finishing 7 holes, I think that will rank as one of the best ever in this crazy game called golf.

Pak was 3 behind at the start of the day but finished the day waving a 3-stroke winning margin over erstwhile leader Michelle Ellis. This, despite bogeying 2 of her first 3 holes. An eagle on 5 ignited Pak's rally that produced 8 birdies in her last 13 holes for a 9-under 63. Long after she's gone in this world of imperfections, Pak's name will be remembered with fondness, if not reverence.

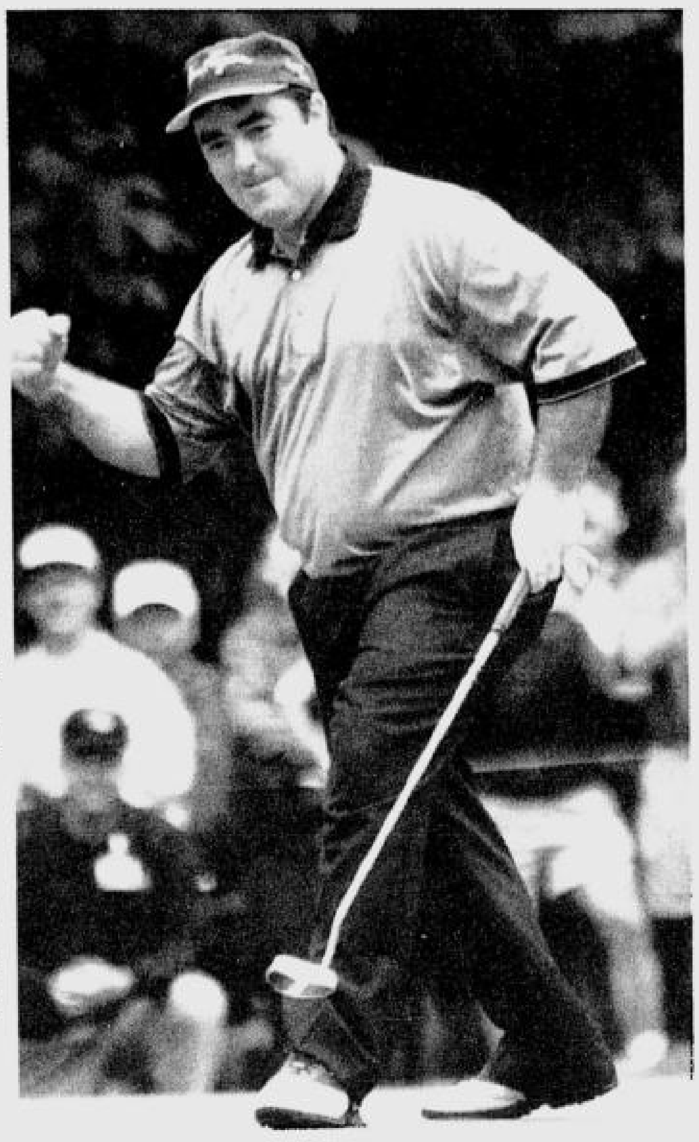
Tiger Woods and Se Ri Pak have this so-called killer-instinct that not many of us can lay claim to.

As a kid barely starting to play golf, Woods would "suffer" the penalty of not playing the game for days with Tiger's simple mistake of forgetting to bring along his golf shoes during a scheduled round. His father, Earl, implanted the killer-instinct to Tiger with an addiction even to the smallest of details, littlest of mistakes.

And Se Ri Pak?

I'm reminded of Pak's training when she was a kid: Her father brought her to cemeteries in the dead of night to hit range balls. Then, in the morning, he would "treat" his daughter to a "show" featuring a fight to the death between two pit bulls. Mind you, Pak's father used live dogs to entertain his daughter. And Pak wasn't even a teenager yet.

Now tell me, who can top that?


PARRY: "A little more confidence, knowing I can finish the job off." AP

Parry parries Woods' rally like a real champ

By Doug Ferguson

SAMMAMISH, Washington—Australian Craig Parry birdied three straight holes early Sunday at the NEC Invitational and never gave Tiger Woods, Robert Allenby or anyone else a chance in closing with a 6-under 65 for a four-stroke victory.

"I'm just very lucky at the moment," Parry said. "Hopefully, I'll have a little more confidence with my golf game, knowing I can finish the job off."

Parry finished at 16-under 268, four strokes ahead of Allenby (69) and Fred Funk (68), and became the only player besides Woods to capture the NEC Invitational.

Woods was trying to become the first player in 75 years to win the same tournament four years in a row. Starting the final round two strokes behind, he couldn't keep pace with the Australian and closed with a 68 to finish fourth.

Woods ended a three-week stretch with a victory at the Buick Open, a second-place finish in the PGA Championship and fourth at Sahalee.

"Any time you win one, and you put yourself in contention to win two others, you're doing all right," Woods said.

It wasn't enough to stop Rich Beem at Hazeltine, or Parry, another unlikely winner.

Parry became the second player this year to win his first PGA Tour event at one of the $ 5 million World Golf Championships. ***AP***

Final scores

C. Parry $1,000,000	72-65-66-65-268
R. Allenby $410,000	69-63-71-69-272
F. Funk $410,000	68-68-68-68-272
T. Woods $215,000	68-70-67-68-273
J. Rose $187,500	67-67-72-68-274
R. Beem $150,000	74-67-67-67-275
J. Furyk $150,000	70-67-68-70-275
S. Lowery $120,000	67-65-73-71-276
P. Mickelson $105,000	66-69-71-71-277
M. Gogel $105,000	68-69-68-72-277
D. Love III $78,750	66-74-69-69-278
M. Campbell $78,750	70-69-70-69-278
R. Goosen $78,750	65-68-74-71-278
V. Singh $78,750	68-69-69-72-278
T. Bjorn $60,875	68-69-72-70-279
L. Westwood, $60,875	68-69-72-70-279
David Toms, $60,875	69-68-71-71-279
Ernie Els, $60,875	71-67-67-74-279
K.J. Choi, $50,400	73-67-73-67-280
Peter Lonard, $50,400	70-71-72-67-280

GMA plays in Cardinal's Cup

MORE than 200 players headed by no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo are competing in the first Cardinal's Cup on Aug. 29 at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club's West Course.

"We are very honored that the President has accepted our invitation for her not only to hit the ceremonial ball but also to take part," Bishop Socrates Villegas, the organizing committee chair, said yesterday.

"And we also have invited former President Fidel Ramos in this event to celebrate Jaime Cardinal Sin's 74th birthday and raise funds for trained catechists to educate our youth in Christian moral values," he added.

NBA players: Life & blood of Team USA

WHEN The World Basketball Championships (the "Worlds") in Indianapolis, USA, begin on Aug. 30, the NBA-powered Team USA will have just one thing on its mind: avenge the USA's poor finish in the last Worlds in 1998, when a team of CBA players and American pros playing overseas finished third behind medalists Yugoslavia and Russia.

NBA Hall of Fame coach Jack Ramsay notes in ESPN that Team USA, which has NBA's Reggie Miller of Indiana, Paul Pierce of Boston and Michael Finley of Dallas as its marquee players, "lacks the big names of the original Dream Team. But make no mistake, this team is fully capable of carrying on the winning tradition that is expected of it."

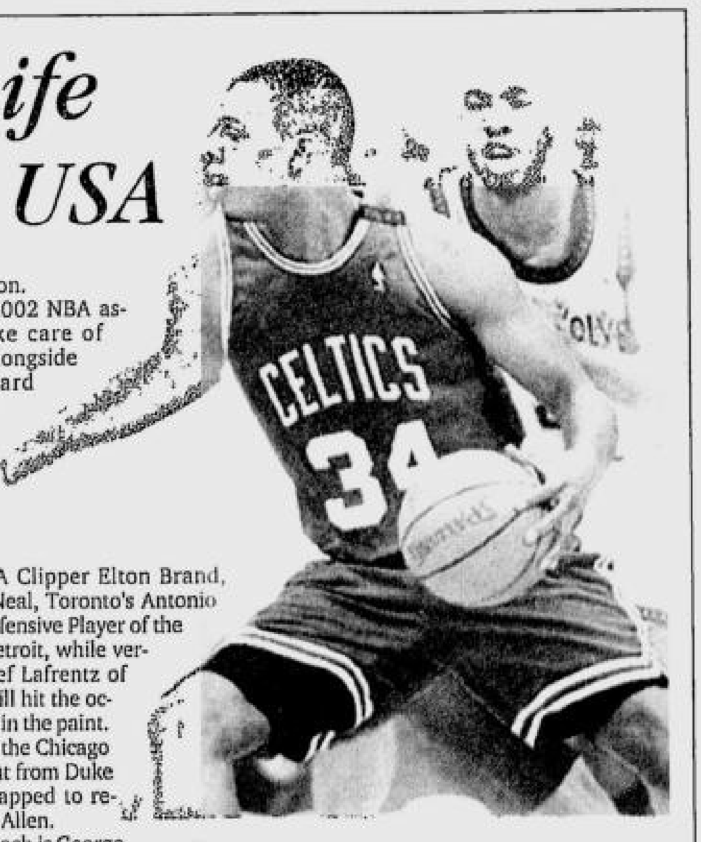
Team USA will be up against 15 of the best national teams in the world from Aug. 30-Sept. 9, including Yugoslavia, Russia, Germany and others eager to challenge American supremacy in basketball. (Solar Entertainment will telecast all the games of TEAM USA at 7-9 p.m. on RPN 9 on a "same-day" basis aside from daily coverage on Solar Channel 17 on (Skycable/Homecable).

Veteran leaders Miller and Pierce, a deadly three-point shooting pair, lead Team USA and will be complemented by the athletic, high-scoring due of Finley and Phoenix's Shawn Marion.

Andre Miller, the 2002 NBA assists leader, will take care of playmaking chores, alongside do-it-all point-guard Baron Davis of the New Orleans Hornets who replaced the injured Jason Kidd on Team USA.

The low-post will be manned by LA Clipper Elton Brand, Indiana's Jermaine O'Neal, Toronto's Antonio Davis and the NBA's Defensive Player of the Year Ben Wallace of Detroit, while versatile seven-footer Raef Lafrentz of the Dallas Mavericks will hit the occasional three and help in the paint. Rookie Jay Williams of the Chicago Bulls, a college standout from Duke University, was also tapped to replace Milwaukee's Ray Allen.

Team USA's head coach is George Karl of the Milwaukee Bucks. Ramsey notes that Karl achieved his greatest coaching success at Seattle by using a combination of pressure-type defenses. "He has the personnel on Team USA to re-establish that game with good results. He also has the inside strength to dominate the boards. The combination of pressure defense and strong rebounding will allow Team USA to set an up-tempo pace to the game. If the team starts each game with abundant energy and maintains it throughout the game, USA Team 2002 will not lose."



PIERCE

SPORTSWATCH

Architects golf launch on Aug. 30

ORGANIZERS of the Architects' Golf Classic led by Tom Adarme announced yesterday the launch of the event this year on Aug. 30 at Aces Golfer's Club in Makati. Adarme, AGC president, said the guest list will include architects and captains of the construction industry. The 11th Architects' Golf Classic is on Nov. 18 at Sta. Elena. Registration is ongoing and will close on Sept. 30. The event is backed by Boysen Paints, Delta Faucet Company, Puyat Vinyl Tiles, Puyat Tiles, Puyat Steel Corp., Kenzai Tiles from Urban Hardware, Asahi Glass Phils., Futura Décor Products, Crown Asia Compounders, Digital Cinema in Style, Expert Interior Products, The House of Precast, Jardine Schindler Elevator, Julant Pest Control, Maramax Lighthouse, Master Sports and Solahart of Gopez Corporation, Otis Elevator Company Phils., Samitrade Inc., Emerald Vinyl Corp., Jackbilt Industries, Moduclasse, New Golden City Builders, Phil. ABS Systems, Int'l., Philflex Wires & Cable, Stainless Steel Industries, and Suria Signs Inc.

Bates 7-stag derby starts today

THE MANDALUYONG Coliseum presents the Richard L. Bates 7-Stag National Derby at 4 p.m. today before an anticipated huge crowd. Derby sponsors are Pagcor, Ninja Gamefowl Feeds and Lakpue Drug. Inc. Last year's edition of this annual stagfest being hosted by American breeder Richard L. Bates is actually Mandaluyong Coliseum's record holder in terms of crowd attendance as far as stag derbies are concerned. Lined up today is the qualifying round (3-stag) after which the 4-stag championship round is set Aug. 29. Competing today are members of prominent cockers and breeders organizations like Ucap, Balbina Group, Migba, NGBA and GF. Ucap rules will be followed. Entry fee is P15,000 and minimum bet is P11,000. Meanwhile, partners Ramon Mansenares and Muroy Dolorico are still accepting entries for "Ratratan Sa Mandaluyong 7-Stag Derby" on Sept. 3 and 5. Entry fee is P16,500 and minimum bet is P11,000.

Potenciano AF2 champ

BIRA, Thailand—Mike Potenciano of the Zed San Miguel MP Turbo Team Philippines accomplished what no Filipino had ever done when he bagged first place in the seventh round of the Asian Formula 2000 series held here last Sunday.

"I am very happy because this is my first ever victory in the series and since it took place here in Bira, this place will forever be special for me. I felt like a rookie on his first win when I stood on top of the AF2 podium for the first time," said Potenciano who squeezed out the best from his brand-new engine for the weekend.

His victory complemented a second place finish in round 8 to cap a near-perfect weekend which began with his clinching the pole position for the two rounds during the time trials.

Ramirez hot, tops 2 rounds

SUBIC—Rookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA continued his dramatic comeback Sunday, sweeping the ninth and 10th rounds to stay in contention in the Blaze super saloon category in the 2002 SVI-Petron Grand Prix at the Subic International Raceway.

Hardly bothered by overall leader Jody Coseteng and comebacking Jojo Silverio, Ramirez produced another inspired performance and completed his first sweep of the season before another big crowd in this annual series organized by the Sports Values, Inc. in cooperation with Petron and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA).

Leongson pulls away from field

CAGAYAN DE ORO—Veteran rider Ernie Leongson, playing for pride, ruled the abbreviated Pro Open division in the 6th leg of the Superferry before some 100, 000 fans—the biggest ever crowd gathered for a motorbike event in the country—at the El Pueblo Business Center.

The Shell-Yamaha stalwart, who only needs to finish the last two legs of the series safely in order to bag the premier title, instead went all out for a win and dominated the shortened Pro Open with a score of 20 to pull away from his pursuers with a total of 204 points.

JEFF Bombeo of San Beda College (right) challenges SSC's Christian Coronel during their NCAA game yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. Bombeo's inspired plays weren't enough to save the Red Lions from dropping a close 87-85 decision. VAL HANDUMON

Baculi being eyed to replace Banal

By Dennis U. Eroa

BARRING any major problem, Junel Baculi, known for his volcanic temper and brilliant coaching, will return to the PBL after a short-lived stint with the Olongapo Volunteers in the now-defunct MBA.

Baculi, owner of five PBL titles, has emerged as the hottest candidate to replace Hapee/Kutitap Toothpaste mentor Koy Banal, who steered the Sparklers to two third-place finishes in the Challenge and Chairman's Cup, respectively.

"Koy is out and we're still looking for a new coach," confirmed team manager Bernard Yang. Yang said Jack Huang, business associate of Lamoiyan Corp. chief Cecilio de Pedro, met with Banal last week regarding the decision to find a new coach.

Baculi admitted that he had already met with Huang but said he's still awaiting De Pedro's decision. De Pedro is presently out of the country.

"Mr. De Pedro will make the formal announcement. The final decision will come from him (De Pedro)," said Baculi.

Another candidate for Banal's coaching job is ex-pro Jojo Villapando, who steered the Negros Slashers to their first MBA national title this year. An ex-pro, Villapando formally was an assistant coach in Sta. Lucia Realty and UAAP champion La Salle.

Baculi coached Welcoat to four titles in a span of two years. In 1996, Baculi, a native of Tuguegarao, Cagayan, steered Hapee Toothpaste to its first PBL title by winning the Reinforced Conference over Stag Pale Pilsen. That championship team featured Chinese behemoth Ma Jian, who overshadowed American imports.

Baculi also lifted Hapee to the 1996 Asian Clubs Championship, a year after he masterminded the victory of Andok's in the prestigious gathering of champions clubs all over Asia.

Baculi and Villapando have contrasting styles in squeezing the best from their wards. Baculi spices up his temperament with body language in protest of what he deemed "spotty officiating." He is ready to get thrown out of the court in order to prove his point or wake his players from stupor.

Villapando is the exact opposite. Like a chess player, Villapando coaches with the demeanor of a zen master. While his silence is sometimes misinterpreted as a sign of weakness, Villapando can also do a Baculi if needed.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1994, the Villamor team scored a 31-point victory in the Nike-Luzvimin Ladies Invitational golf tournament at the Cebu Country Club course. Also today in 1994, Gerard Cantada fired a 74 to win the Macau Open Junior Golf Championship in Hong Kong.

PCU makes Final 4 for 1st time

GAMES TOMORROW
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 p.m.—Letran vs UPHR (jrs/srs)
3:30 p.m.—PCU vs SSC (srs/jrs)

By June Navarro

PHILIPPINE Christian University barged into the Final Four for the first time after booting out Mapua, 88-84, yesterday in the 78th NCAA men's basketball championship at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Bernzon Franco came up with a double-double performance, knocking in 27 points and grabbing 11 rebounds for the Dolphins, who will finally see action in the playoffs after six fruitless seasons in the league.

The Dolphins' eighth victory in 12 games improved their chances of earning a twice-to-beat advantage in the semifinals, a privilege reserved for the top two qualifiers in the Final Four.

In the other varsity game, San Sebastian College edged San Beda College, 87-85, to grab the solo lead at 10-2 and move a win away from earning a twice-to-beat incentive.

Angeles shocks 9-ball singles rivals

UNRATED Nina Angeles of Antipolo City emerged as individual 9-ball singles champion in the Philippines-Singapore Women's Cue Challenge last Sunday by whipping Iris Ranola of Zamboanga City, 7-3, at Robinsons Place Manila.

Angeles, 18-year-old, 5-foot-4 daughter of the owners of a chain of billiards halls in Metro Manila, jumped to a two-rack lead at the start and never looked back. After Ranola took the third rack, Angeles picked up three more racks for a commanding 5-1 lead in the race-to-7 match.

"She's definitely prepared for this event," said coach Boyet Asonto, "although she's not one of our top bets. But her confidence grew after she beat our best player (Rubilen Amit) in the quarterfinals."

ANGELES

Angeles and Ranola hurdled their respective Singaporean rivals in the semifinals. Angeles topped Amy Hoe, 6-3, while Ranola, a 5-footer who honed her skills playing in the family's own table back home in Zamboanga, crushed Zen Ong, rated No. 127 in the world, 6-1.

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SPORTS

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SLANDER BY DEED

Lang to press charges against Mott

By June Navarro

LANG

SAN Miguel Beer's Terquinn Mott may yet find himself in deep trouble for almost wringing the neck of Batang Red Bull's Tony Lang on Sunday.

Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao yesterday said the 6-foot-8 Lang would press charges against Mott for slandering by deed Lang in front of a sizeable crowd.

Mott held Lang by the neck and threatened him with harm on the way to the dugout during the halftime of Game 2 of the Red Bull-San Miguel semifinal clash on Sunday night at the Big Dome.

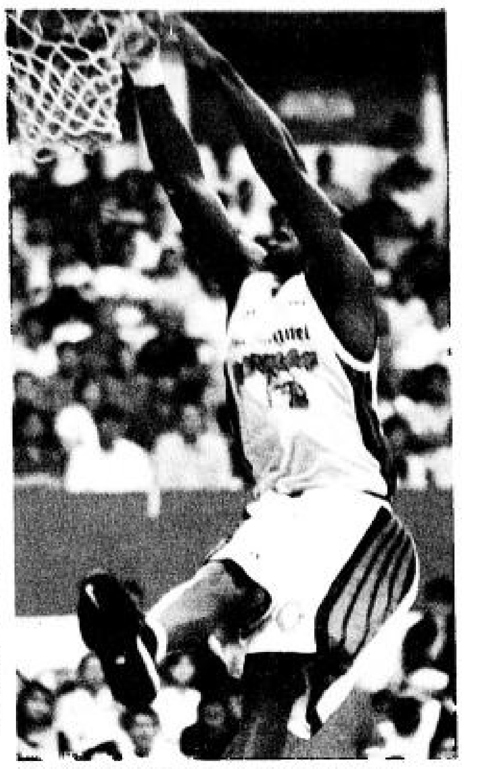
"He's (Lang) willing to bring the case to court. The injury is not serious but Mott made a coward out of Lang and that's enough reason for Lang to press charges," Guiao told the INQUIRER.

Guiao said the Red Bull management will "definitely throw its support" behind Lang.

Aside from facing possible charges in court, the hulking Mott will most likely be penalized by the PBA Commissioner's Office, a league insider told the INQUIRER.

Officials and players from San Miguel Beer and Red Bull are expected to show up before the Commissioner's Office today beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The last time the Commissioner's Office penalized a player for harming another cager off the court happened in the mid-90s when Swift's Ronnie Thompkins chased Rey Cuenco of Shell in the dugout.


MOTT: Outburst puts him in hot water.

Hartmann wrests crown

HARTMANN-Seigle proved steadier down the stretch to beat Cebu-based ML Kwarta Padala, 66-62, yesterday and bag the crown of the 4th Danny Espiritu Cup at the Lyceum gym.

Ariel Capus topped with 21 points while Samboy "The Skywalker" Lim, who was also adjudged Most Valuable Player, added 18 as the duo kept the rivals at bay in the dying minute.

"We're very happy. The trail to the championship was quite rough and we ourselves were surprised we got all the way here despite being a new team in this league," said Hartmann-Seigle coach Mike Ganglani, who's ably assisted by Anthony Castro and team consultant Boy Lapid.

"We're grateful to the management of Hartmann and the Seigle family led by Andy and Danny, for believing in this team. We offer this trophy to them as we look forward to a stronger partnership next season," Ganglani added.

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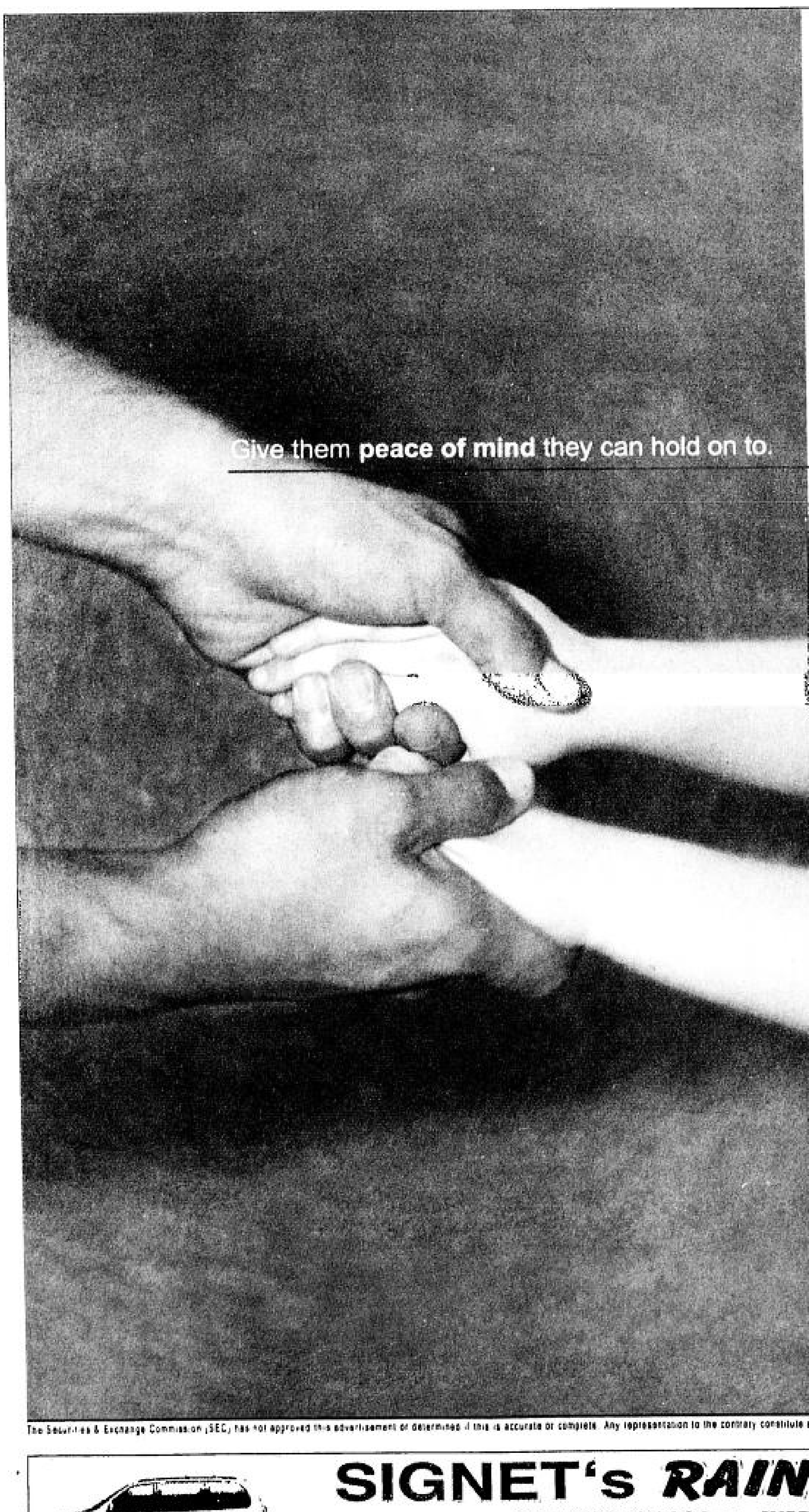
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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

MMDA: Vendors who fight back will be arrested

By Leila B. Salaverria and Christian V. Esguerra

SIDEWALK vendors who put up a fight when the Metro Manila Development Authority workers conduct clearing operations could be arrested, according to MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando.

And local officials who give permits to sidewalk vendors could be booted out of office or thrown in jail, Fernando also said.

The MMDA head made the warning even as vendors and informal settlers said they are joining forces to intensify their campaign against the MMDA drive to ease them out of the metropolis.

Fernando yesterday said MMDA workers who are clearing the sidewalks are guarded by police

MMDA/A22

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Hospital sends home mental patient due to unpaid bills

By Agnes E. Donato

THE BROTHER of a patient of the National Center for Mental Health in Mandaluyong City yesterday decried the hospital's treatment of his sister whom he said the hospital sent home because of unpaid bills.

The brother said a social worker and a ward attendant of the NCMH accompanied the patient to her house on Aug. 16 after her family failed to settle her outstanding bills at the hospital.

NCMH officials referred the INQUIRER to NCMH billing section chief Arturo Salcedo to explain the hospital's side, but Salcedo was not available.

The patient's brother said his sister, who was diagnosed as suffering from schizophrenia, has been a patient since 1974. He said that he did not expect the hospital to treat her in such a way since she was an old patient. "During the many times that my sister had been admitted and readmitted at the NCMH, her account was always paid in full every time we checked her out of the hospital— never with an outstanding balance," he said.

Since 1974, his sister had been admitted in various hospitals in Metro Manila and even in a private psychiatric ward in Batangas, said the brother.

But since the closure of the psychiatric wards of the University of Sto. Tomas and St. Luke's hospitals and the US Veteran's Clinic, he had no option but to to have her admitted "either at the expensive wards of Medical City and Makati Medical Center or at the more affordable pay ward of NCMH."

The brother said that he had tried to bring his sister home every time her condition stabilized, but she would leave the house and get lost.

He said that he had brought her home in June 2001, but had her re-admitted barely two weeks later after she went missing for two days.

"The deposit had increased to P12,000 from the previous requirement of only P6,000 in February (2001). The daily rate for ordinary ward confinement was also increased from P250 to P360 per day, excluding medical costs. I am informed that now, new and/or returning patients have to post a P24,000 deposit before admission at the NCMH pay ward," he said.

He also claimed that the institution had started threatening to send his sister home after NCMH's Salcedo told him last July 3 that "the institution intended to strictly implement the new policies promulgated by the NCMH director."

"(He told me that) either I updated the payment of (my sister's) account as of June 30, 2002 amounting to P32,406.91 or the NCMH would 'conduct' the patient home—whether or not she was well," the patient's brother said.

He said he paid half of the bill on that day and told Salcedo that he was "hard-pressed for cash," but that he had already requested financial assistance from his employer.

By the first week of August, his account had reached almost P28,000 and Salcedo again threatened to send his sister home, he said.

He said he received another billing notice and a written warning from Salcedo on August 15. The following day, his sister was "unceremoniously delivered to her recorded address in Valenzuela City and left with the maid who knew her only by name," he said.

He said that the same ward attendant and social worker who brought his sister home went to his workplace and asked him to sign a promissory note for P35,000. He said he refused to sign it.

He said his sister had told him other patients had also been sent home for non-payment of their bills.

Officer shot dead in QC

By Alcuin Papa

A POLICE sergeant was ambushed and killed by three men in Quezon City early yesterday morning.

SPO3 Quintin Colon, 42, assigned to the Civil Security Group of the Philippine National Police in Camp Crame and a resident of Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City, died on the spot, investigators said. He was riddled with bullets in different parts of the body.

Investigator SPO1 Rodrigo Barrameda of the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit said the ambush happened about 2:45 a.m. on 14th Avenue in Barangay Soccoro, also in Quezon City.

Police said Colon was boarding an Avis taxi when the three armed men came and dragged him out of the vehicle.

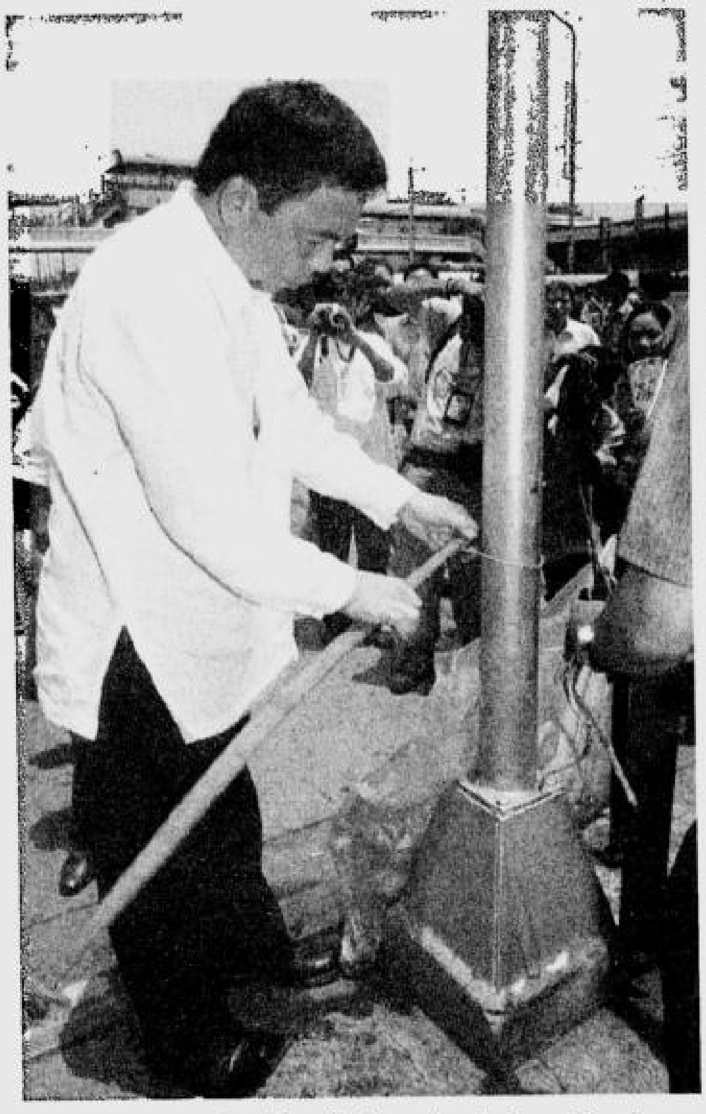
The three men shot the policeman with their handguns, investigators said.

The wounded victim managed to run away but one of the armed men finished him off, police said.

Investigators learned that Colon was part of a PNP agency that issues licenses to security agencies and their guards.

Investigators believe Colon's position could have something to do with the killers' motive.

Members of the CPD were still trying to identify the suspects.



FERNANDO, removing sidewalk obstructions in Pasay City, also warns local officials who grant permits to sidewalk vendors.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

MMDA: Vendors who fight back will be arrested

From page A21

and vendors who fight back "could be arrested."

Militant groups earlier said the vendors would fight back when MMDA agents confiscate their wares.

Fernando had said in response that the MMDA men would hit back at the vendors, although the MMDA men were also told to exercise maximum tolerance.

"We're only taking precautionary measures," he said yesterday. "We're intimidating them so they would believe that we are serious."

Fernando also said yesterday that he would not be pressured or cowed into stopping the clearing operations.

Asked about the threat that vendors might pour kerosene on the MMDA chair himself, Fernando said he was unfazed by such threats, although he fears for the welfare of his wife and child and other MMDA officials.

"I also have a child and a wife and I fear for their safety, but I am not that afraid that I would stop doing what I have to do," he said.

Fernando yesterday supervised clearing operations in Pasay and Baclaran. A water tanker, a flower bed and a police outpost sign on the sidewalk were removed in Pasay, while several makeshift structures were destroyed in Baclaran.

"It is illegal to allow vendors to use the sidewalk," Fernando said, referring to local officials. "Even if it is the city treasurer, the vice mayor *o kahit sino pang demonyo, mali iyon* (or whoever devil he may be, it is wrong)."

He said this after several vendors in the Munoz market in Quezon City showed him pieces of paper allegedly allowing the vendors to use sidewalk spaces. The vendors said they paid the city treasurer and were given proper permits.

But he said no permits would be honored, and local officials who continue to issue such permits would be sanctioned.

"Not even the president of the Philippines can issue that kind of permit," he said.

As the MMDA chair walked away in Muñoz market, some of the vendors booed him.

Led by the Urban Poor Associates (UPA) and the Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng mga Maralita ng Lungsod (KPML), urban poor groups representing thousands of vendors and squatters are planning to consolidate their forces for a "stronger, tougher" opposition to the MMDA and Fernando.

"Definitely, we're open to the establishment of a coalition to make our campaign stronger," vendor Jess Panis, KPML president, said in Filipino.

Ted Anana, UPA assistant coordinator, urged Fernando to suspend the clearing operations until the MMDA has conducted dialogues with urban poor groups.

He said a meeting was initially scheduled for Aug. 29, which would also involve the National Anti-Poverty Commission, but Fernando supposedly cancelled it for unknown reasons.

"We only want to have due process," Anana told the INQUIRER. "The law clearly states that there should be notice, consultation, and alternative housing before any demolition."

Panis said that on Aug. 30, about 300 leaders of urban poor groups will meet at the University of the Philippines Chapel in Diliman to discuss Fernando's crackdown on vendors.

The "vendors' summit" would give birth to an alliance of urban poor groups that would intensify the campaign against the MMDA, he said.

Defense man found dead

By Christian V. Esguerra

INVESTIGATORS are puzzled over the death of a defense department employee who was found lying in a mess of blood in his house in Taguig early yesterday morning.

Police said Eduardo Clemente, aged between 40 and 43, appeared to have no external injuries. He was found with bloodstained briefs crammed in his mouth, initial investigation by the Scene of the Crime Operatives showed.

The killer could have suffocated Clemente with the underwear until the victim's blood vessels burst, said Insp. Virgilio Pagtama, chief of the Taguig Station Investigation Division.

Pagtama said policemen were looking for a man who had been heard arguing with Clemente in his house in Sto. Nino, Pan-Am in Western Bicutan at about 4 a.m. The man was said to be the victim's boyfriend, according to police.

"*Tama na, ayoko na,*" neighbors quoted Clemente as telling the man in his house, although the neighbors also said the victim's stereo was playing full blast.

Moments after the man had left, a certain Delia Orga peeped through Clemente's window and saw the victim lying on the floor, police said.

Investigators believe the assailant might have robbed Clemente before killing him.

Missing were Clemente's new VCD player and an undetermined amount he had borrowed for the repair of his gate, police said.

Civilian killed in Rizal clash

By Nelson F. Flores

A CIVILIAN woman was killed when she was caught in the crossfire between government soldiers and suspected members of the Narciso Antazo Aramil Command of the New People's Army in the mountainous area of his town.

Rodriguez Rizal Mayor Pedro Cuerpo identified the victim as Adela Carlos, a resident of Sitio Makaingalan, Barangay Puray, Rodriguez. Cuerpo said the woman died on the spot from gunshot wounds.

The mayor said no other deaths of either soldiers or communist guerillas were reported from the encounter.

Reports received by the local police said the clash between the soldiers and the suspected NPA rebels happened in Sitio Makaingalan.

It began on Friday and lasted until Sunday morning when members of the army's Task Force Makiling and the 59th Infantry Battalion were reconnoitering the area for NPA fighters.

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The gay Abu Sabaya

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

ABU Sayyaf leader Aldam Tilao, alias Abu Sabaya, is very much dead despite claims by Catholic priest Fr. Cirilo Nacorda that he's alive.

Nacorda made the claim during an open forum after his speech at the Rotary Club of Manila. He also made the disclosure to the INQUIRER before his speech.

With due respect to the good priest, if Abu Sabaya were alive he would have made his presence felt. He would have called a press conference with his friends in media

***

When he was alive, Sabaya taunted the military whenever he had the chance. He called his favorite radio station in Zamboanga City to announce that he and his group had killed or beheaded some hostages. He even announced the beheading of an American hostage, Guillermo Sobero, as a birthday gift to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Like most people of his gender, Sabaya could not repress the temptation to talk like a parrot. He was gay; that was the only thing he didn't flaunt.

He was what you would call a "closet queen." Most closet queens are ruthless and merciless toward their enemies.

***

Sabaya was killed by Filipino troops in a speedboat chase off the coast of Sibuco town, Zamboanga del Norte. He fell off his boat after being hit by volleys of fire from the government troops.

Sabaya's body was never recovered despite an intensive search.

Among the things found in his backpack were his ubiquitous shades and a make-up kit, including Eskinol, an astringent.

Missing among his belongings was a petroleum jelly that he reportedly always carried around with him. Don't ask me what's it's for.

***

Sabaya reminds me of an ex-cop-turned-politician who is of the same gender as Sabaya.

The guy also talks and talks like a parrot. He rides on all kinds of issues just so people will notice him.

But don't be deceived by his "gayish" ways-he reportedly also wears make-up-because he was a ruthless lawman. He reportedly even killed innocent women.

Like Sabaya, this politician is also a closet queen.

***

If former Education Secretary Raul was clean and honest, as he tried to project to the public, how come he used government money to pay for a survey conducted by Pulse Asia. In that survey, he was tops in performance among all Cabinet members.

The Department of Education (DepEd) paid P400,000 for that survey. Education Undersecretary Ernesto S. Pangan and Pulse Asia president Felipe B. Miranda signed a memorandum order covering a job order for that survey.

Why did Roco use taxpayers' money to fund a survey that he would use to advertise himself?

***

That was not the first time Roco spent taxpayers' money for his personal use.

The first thing he did when he was appointed education secretary was to have thousands of copies of a calendar printed. The calendar, distributed to all public schools, shows Roco with his family.

By the way, who's this Lorna Patajo-Kapunan who was hired by Roco at DepEd as legal consultant? At P22,521 a month, her salary as legal adviser was among the highest given by DepEd to consultants.

***

Former Bulacan Rep. Angelito Sarmiento has been appointed chair of the National Food Administration (NFA) Council.

Together with other members of the NFA Council, Sarmiento's job is laying down policies and making policy decisions concerning food, particularly when it concerns rice.

Not part of his job is meddling in the management of the NFA. That job is best left to Antonio Abad, NFA administrator.

Sources at the NFA told me Sarmiento went to the agency and ordered middle managers around. "He was throwing his weight around, as if he was our boss," said one of the sources.

***

President Macapagal-Arroyo is serious about making cheap but quality medicines available to poor patients in government hospitals.

Consider this letter I received from Victor Domingo, presidential assistant for Eastern Visayas:

"(President GMA) called me up while I was in Manila yesterday (Aug. 14, 2002) about the incident at the Eastern Visayas Medical Center in which a certain Mr. Liberato Tulfo (my distant relative-RT) was treated for stab wounds. The President called me up because she was informed that there were no GMA cheap medicines available at the hospital then.

"I immediately called up the director of that hospital, Dr. Adelaida Asperin, and requested her to explain the allegedly lack of GMA medicines."

***

In short, the hospital director denied that the Eastern Visayas Medical Center lacked cheap medicines.

How can she make that denial and still sleep?

I am a witness to the hospital's lack of medicines. In fact, I was the one who bought the needed medicines for Liberato outside. I was vacationing in Tacloban City when somebody said a guy with the same surname as mine needed medicines.

Ayaw na la dida, Ma'am, pagbinuwa kay bangin ka ma-impiyerno! Liars go to hell.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

'INSOMNIA'

Worth losing sleep over

EYEBAG MAN. At last, Al Pacino's sleep-deprived look makes sense.

By Emmie G. Velarde

REVIEW

LUGGING a tall cappuccino, Movie Buddy changes queues at the last moment and goes for "Unfaithful" instead.

I have no regrets. I remain awake throughout "Insomnia," and it's not just on account of my own steaming paper cuppa.

Al Pacino is peerless as Will Dormer, a sleep-deprived, once-famous, now morally suspect Los Angeles cop "exiled" to Alaska for one week to solve a murder.

At last the eyebags and sundry lines on his face make sense. It appears that, in the past several years, the actor had deliberately grown them in anticipation of this role.

From the movie's start to finish, aside from sleepy, Pacino deftly shuffles between weary and wasted, even when in a state of panic or fury. To see is to believe. (How he remembers to flash his Tag Heuer-ed wrist intermittently, I have no clue.)

Even if this movie were structured like Director Christopher Nolan's first hit, "Memento"—which starts at the end and works itself backwards-I'd easily piece it together by keeping tab of the creases above Pacino's eyebrows.

First there are three. But as Dormer becomes increasingly agitated, he forgets to wear his shades, so he squints and curls up the famous forehead more and more, until . . . there are seven.

Or eight. There was no one to compare notes with.

In short, I can rattle off 10 alternative performers for each of the other roles, including that of Robin Williams, but not for Dormer, no sir.

Apart from the obvious element—the lead character not getting sleep for seven days—we need not go into the details of the story because we've heard more fascinating ones since.

This "Insomnia" is a remake of the 1997 movie, which was in turn based on a novel. Plots have evolved considerably since.

Don't get me wrong; "Insomnia" is highly recommended viewing. It is intriguing to watch what happens when a person who depends on his wits for a living is unable to hush up his mind long enough for his body to rest. It is a strong argument against amphetamine abuse.

But "Memento" is the gauge by which the British filmmaker's work will be measured for a long time. With the dark and unsettling movie about an amnesiac hunting down his wife's murderers, Nolan was proclaimed to have "reinvented film noir." That made it worth all the trouble he had undergone, not the least of which was rejection by all the major studios. In the end he even got an Oscar nomination for its calculated chaos of a screenplay. (Quick, find a copy and buy it!)

This time around critics say that, with "Insomnia," Nolan "wakes up a sleeping genre (the psycho thriller)." Williams plays the psycho, but he's not the one that provides the thrill. This is something that Nolan does almost single-handedly as the wicked Sandman who orchestrates what he himself describes as "some awful waking dream."

A crucial scene appears slightly different with each recounting in flashback. But since this happens in Dormer's head, it is more bearable than the most scary part, at least for me: In hot pursuit of his prey, Dormer slips and nearly drowns under huge logs streaming down freezing waters.

All the help Nolan needs in the "thrill" department, he gets from Pacino, as I said, and from one other "character" that is silent but irreplaceable-the movie location. Alaska makes itself profoundly felt from Frame 1. Specifically, the town called Nightmute, where the sun never sets and never really rises, effectively competes for audience attention. It doesn't even have to cough up a lot of locals to establish a personality.

Just when I am about to conclude that the place can't be for real-proud mountains and endless, happily winding highways across an expanse that always looks shower fresh, as they say in air spray commercials-a not-so-innocent joyride leads to the Nightmute dump site. Garbage is the fashionable reality check. What was I thinking?

Williams' supposedly "creepy" killer is only a notch more disoriented than his robot in "Bicentennial Man," after getting a human form. Hilary Swank as the small town detective stalking Pacino, who is stalking Williams, is appropriately predictable.

No offense. I bet these extraordinary actors chose to play themselves down, understanding that this is all about Nolan, his empathy for disturbed characters, and his expressed desire to "shake up" industry traditions.

His crusade is certainly gaining ground, with fans and precious backers who now include Steven Soderbergh. The award-winning filmmaker, as well as actor George Clooney, reportedly signed up without thinking twice, as "Insomnia" executive producers.

With a budget 10 times bigger than the $4.5 million of "Memento," "Insomnia" is definitely sleeker-the big-studio hand cannot remain hidden. But it still essentially tackles the mind as the last frontier.

Everything adds up. Nolan's first full-length feature film, "Following" (1998), tells of a young man who breaks into other people's homes just to look through their things. The amnesiac in "Memento" forgets at every turn what he's up to, and has tattoos all over his body to remind him.

Next in line is a biopic of eccentric billionaire Howard Hughes, starring funnyman Jim Carrey and taking on, among other things, claustrophobia.

Knowing rather well by now how Nolan is inclined to pursue his Hollywood dream, this should be another one worth losing sleep over.

Gary V: Catch me while you still can

PURE ENERGY. "I'm a perfectionist and sometimes that can pull me down as a Christian," says Gary.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

JUST BEING around Gary Valenciano puts me in a cheerful mood. He has such an incredible joie de vivre which he spreads around so well.

Every time Gary and I bump into each other, I end up taking something more than what I came for. Same feeling you get after watching any of his shows.

Every now and then, he would unwittingly strengthen my faith as a fellow Born-again Christian. I'll never forget the time he told me that he had a long spiritual talk with my ex-husband when he had a concert in the US. Considering his hectic schedule, how could he have remembered such details?

Such is Gary V.'s touch. He singles you out. He makes every talk, every song , every moment matter.

This year marks Gary V.'s 19th anniversary in show business. His "Revive" album has reached triple platinum status, he was awarded the Best Male Music Video award for his "One2One" carrier single in the recent MTV Pilipinas awards, the Katha Best Pop Male Vocal Performance Award for "Anak."

This September, he will return to Onstage for a limited engagement in a concert series called "Gary V. Hits Onstage," a production of Manila Genesis Entertainment presented for Maxi-Media International. Show dates are Sept. 6, 20, 27 and 28 at 9 p.m. Tickets at P600, P900 and P1200 are now available at all Ticketworld outlets in major National Bookstores, Tower Records Makati and Alabang, Manila Genesis office (722-7821) and Maxi-media (551-8999).

I'll let you in on my tete a tete with Gary V so you'll get a glimpse of him offstage.

What can your fans expect from "GaryV.: Hits Onstage?" Isn't it tough to keep on outdoing yourself?

Even I don't know what to expect. That's the beauty of it! It will be spontaneous. Nothing *dekahon* or scripted. What I can promise the audience is that they will hear every single hit of mine. Initially I wanted to divide my repertoire and include hits that were not supposed to be hits (laughter) but I changed my mind.

Which among your many hits is closest to your heart?

"Take Me Out of the Dark." Every time I sing it, it's like the first time. I still get goose bumps singing that song.

Do you get more fulfillment performing for a Christian audience as a contemporary gospel artist or for a larger audience as Mr. Pure Energy? Has there been a time when there was any conflict of interest?

Whether I sing for a small audience or a huge crowd I always derive fulfillment. What I'm particular about, though, is the sound system. In that sense I'm a perfectionist and sometimes that can pull me down as a Christian. I'm only human. I also get temper tantrums when everything is not as I envisioned it to be but I make it a point to pray and calm down before it gets out of hand.

Last year your career sort of went into a slump while Martin (Nievera) *was soaring. How did you deal with this? Did you consult Martin about it?*

The problem was with me, not with him. I started to look inward. I had to make a conscious effort to reinvent myself. It was sort of my journey into the wilderness. I guess all artists go through that stage. But instead of letting it affect me negatively, I used that time to bond deeper with my family.

Martin came up to me and said, "Hey, you think we have to talk about something?" Our friendship is like that. We don't impose. It's just a gentle reminder that we're here for each other.

Many years ago when we were both just starting and we were being pitted against each other, we already knew that someday we would look back and just laugh at all the controversies hurled our way.

Look where we are now. Our friendship is rock-solid. Record sales, concert attendance fluctuate but our bond only strengthens through time.

Any unfulfilled dreams?

If I had enough time, I would want to bring my music equipment and go to tribes all over the country, record their native way of making music and jibe it with my own for a distinct Pinoy sound.

Your Onstage show will run for five days only. Won't there be any extension like Martin's?

As much as I would want to do more shows, I can't because I'm booked, so they better catch me this September while they still can.

For feedback, e-mail friends_-at_dsquare@yahoo.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Move on, Kris

Dear Editor,

Move on, Kris!

You may be wrong. But we all commit mistakes. And who are we to judge you, anyway?

You may be wrong by pursuing your feelings and aspirations of personal happiness. And may I remind those who are critical of you that you have a right to privacy that we have to respect, as we ourselves want to be respected.

This happens everyday to people all over the world. The only difference is that you are the daughter of a national hero and a former President.

Most people are saying "Kris has gone crazy." I say to them, who is not crazy when they fall in love?

Only, don't fall for the wrong guy.

The blame and ridicule is vicious. But how dare hit only Kris, a source of joy, a person who makes us cry and laugh and who tutors us every night on "GKNB."

It's unfair. Are we only to get pleasure out of her and not at least pray for and support her at this time of confusion and personal sorrow? What double standards we have!

Move on, Kris! You may be wrong, but we think you are generally great and big. There are people watching your mistakes and will hit you hard and bring your ratings down, and of course commercial endorsements will shy away from you and go to somebody else.

Move on, Kris! This is a double-standard world.

Move on, Kris! The important thing is to get up when you stumble. *—Lucilyn Ylaya-Abrogar, #15, 17th St., Nazareth, Cagayan de Oro City*

South Border sings with Kyla at Music Museum

GROOVE it down with the coolest R&B in town as South Border stages another live wire concert, Aug. 30 and 31 at the Music Museum, with the country's newest pop sensation Kyla.

South Border remains to be a band worth watching and listening to. The members do not see their group competing with other bands. Yet, they manage to sustain their popularity because they love and enjoy what they do.

"We are a happy band," enthuses Jay Durias, the band's lead songwriter and bandleader.

The band is composed of vocalist and keyboardist Jay Durias, Luke Mejares (vocals), Tata Balane (bass), Butch Victoriano (guitar), Ric Junasa (saxophone) and Paul Benitez (drums).

What's so distinctive with this group is their versatility of style. They can switch to different musical orientations yet manage to come out with a repertoire of good and lively performance. Each member has a chance and is encouraged to write songs and contribute to the group's long list of originals.

"Kahit Kailan," "Love of My Life," "Losin' My Mind," "Habang Atin ang Gabi" and their latest single, "All I Want is You Today," are just some of South Border songs that stormed the charts and lingered for a while.

The concert, "South Border with Kyla," is mounted by Wilbros Production Center. Media partners in the show are City Lite 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 dwRT, 103.5 K-Lite, Yehey.com.

Tickets for the concert are now available at Wilbros Production Office (374-2222 or 374-9999) and at all TicketWorld outlets (891-5610) in major National Bookstores branches nationwide.

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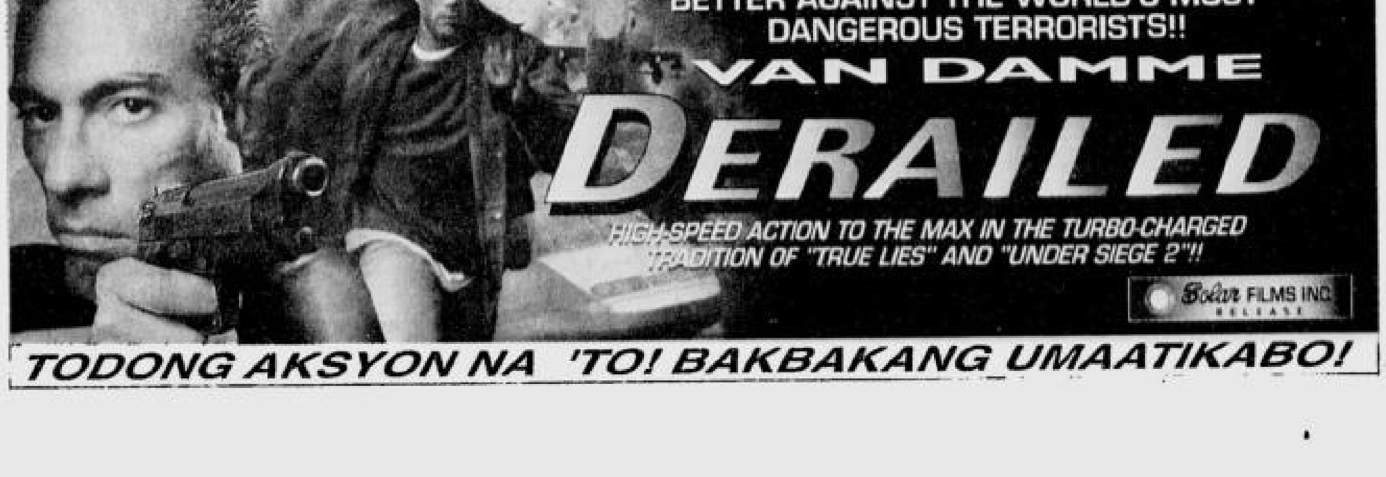

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2 INSOMNIA
3 TRIPLE X 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
4 GAMITAN
5 THE SWEETEST THING
6 TRIPLE X
7 UNFAITHFUL

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002
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GB3 GREENBELT 3
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2 LILO & STITCH 11:20, 1:20, 3:20
3 THE SWEETEST THING 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20
4 UNFAITHFUL 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40, 11:20
5 INSOMNIA 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
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2 TRIPLE X
3 LILO & STITCH
4 UNFAITHFUL
5 INSOMNIA

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*GSC: Guaranteed Seats Cinema

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (SDDS) SWEETEST THING
2 (SDDS) TRIPLE X
3 (DTS) MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4 GOLD (DTS) UNFAITHFUL
5 GOLD (DOLBY) TRIPLE X
6 GOLD (SDDS) TRIPLE X
7 GOLD (DOLBY) INSOMNIA
8 GAMITAN
9 LILO & STITCH
10 KILLING ME SOFTLY

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1
2
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
TEL 551 63 87
1 GAMITAN
2 TRIPLE X
3 BIGLANG LIKO

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 UNFAITHFUL
2 GAMITAN
3 INSOMNIA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) TRIPLE X
5 BIGLANG LIKO

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285
1 INSOMNIA
2 BIGLANG LIKO
3 TRIPLE X
4 GAMITAN
5 HUMAN EATER
6 SEX & ZEN
7
8

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13
1 TRIPLE X

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 D' URAGONS
2 WINDTALKERS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515
1
2 GAMITAN
3

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1
A

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 GAMITAN
2 TRIPLE X
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (DOLBY) TRIPLE X
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 INSOMNIA
5 MORE PANTS IN THE ANTS
6 GAMITAN
7 (DTS) UNFAITHFUL
8 (SDDS) SWEETEST THING
9 (DOLBY) TRIPLE X

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 GAMITAN
2 GAMITAN
3 BIGLANG LIKO
4 (SDDS) TRIPLE X
5 SEX & ZEN
6 (DOLBY) TRIPLE X
7 (DTS) D' URAGONS
8 SWEETEST THING
9 UNFAITHFUL

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS)
2
3
4 SEX & ZEN
5 (SDDS) TRIPLE X
6 GAMITAN
7 (DOLBY) TRIPLE X
8 BIGLANG LIKO

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 TRIPLE X
2 INSOMNIA
3 (DTS) SEX & ZEN
4 GAMITAN
5 (SDDS) TRIPLE X

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 GAMITAN

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 GAMITAN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson SEX & ZEN
Lords EVA
Jennet

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 TRIPLE X
2 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
3 GAMITAN

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
3

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) TRIPLE X
2 SEX & ZEN
3 RESERVE
4 GAMITAN
5 RESERVER

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619
1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED
3 CLOSED
4 CLOSED
5 CLOSED
6 CLOSED

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite
1
2

Berma
TEL. 879 21 68 / 879 21 6
1 TRIPLE X
2 GAMITAN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1
2

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 GAMITAN
2 SORORITY BOYS
3 (DTS) TRIPLE X

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 UNFAITHFUL
2 (DTS) GAMITAN
3 (DOLBY) TRIPLE X
4 SWEETEST THING

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 SWEETEST THING
2 (DOLBY) TRIPLE X
3 (DTS) LILO & STITCH
4 GAMITAN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 D' URAGONS
2 8 LEGGED FREAKS
3 TRIPLE X
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 ABOUT A BOY
2 WINDTALKERS
3 (DOLBY) TRIPLE X
4 (DTS) - 8 LEGGED FREAKS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) TRIPLE X
2 RESERVE
3 BIGLANG LIKO
4 (DTS) GAMITAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) TRIPLE X
2 GAMITAN
3 (DTS) WOLF GIRL
4 BIGLANG LIKO
5 MAPUPULANG ROSAS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 GAMITAN
2 TRIPLE X
3 BIGLANG LIKO

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558
1 BIGLANG LIKO
2 TRIPLE X
3 GAMITAN

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.031
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1
2
3

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) BIGLANG LIKO
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 RESERVE

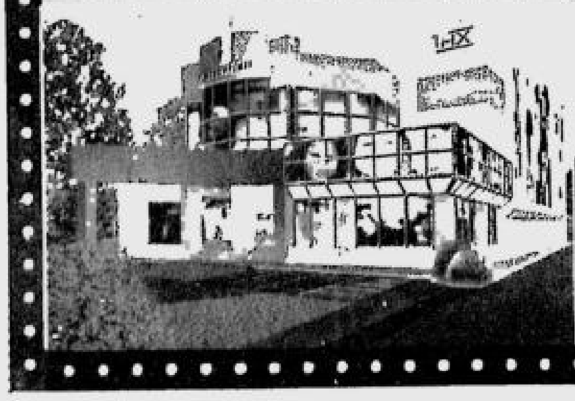
Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 GAMITAN
2 TRIPLE X
3 TRIPLE X

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 LILO & STITCH
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 BIGLANG LIKO
4 TRIPLE X

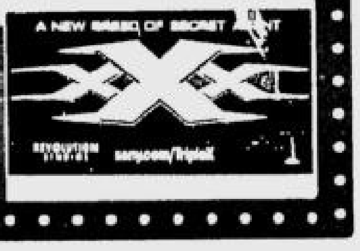
Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) TRIPLE X
2 GAMITAN
3 (DTS) ABOUT A BOY
4 SORORITY BOYS

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS



PREMIERE CINEMA NOW SHOWING
5:00 PM , 7:30PM, 10:00 PM


A NEW BREED OF SECRET AGENT
xXx
sony.com/tripleX

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868
1 UNFAITHFUL
2 BIGLANG LIKO
3 TRIPLE X
4 LILO & STITCH
5 INSOMNIA
6 GAMITAN
7 SWEETEST THING
8 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416
1 GAMITAN
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 TRIPLE X
4 INSOMNIA
5 TRIPLE X
6 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
7 LILO & STITCH
8 SWEETEST THING
9 UNFAITHFUL
10 WINDTALKERS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 INSOMNIA
2 HUMAN EATER
3 KILLING ME SOFTLY
4 TRIPLE X
5 LILO & STITCH
6 GAMITAN
7 TRIPLE X
8 UNFAITHFUL
9 WINDTALKERS
10 SWEETEST THING
11 SEX & ZEN
12 GAMITAN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 UNFAITHFUL
2 SWEETEST THING
3 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4 TRIPLE X
5 INSOMNIA
6 TRIPLE X
7 GAMITAN
8 8 LEGGED FREAKS
9 GAMITAN
10 SEX & ZEN
11 KILLING ME SOFTLY
12 LILO & STITCH

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 TRIPLE X
2 LILO & STITCH
3 SEX & ZEN
4 TRIPLE X
5 UNFAITHFUL
6 WINDTALKERS
7 SWEETEST THING
8 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
9 GAMITAN
10 GAMITAN
11 INSOMNIA
12 KILLING ME SOFTLY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 LILO & STITCH
2 TRIPLE X
3 GAMITAN
4 UNFAITHFUL
5 INSOMNIA
6 KILLING ME SOFTLY
7 SWEETEST THING
8 TRIPLE X

SM SOUTHMALL
8096888
1 WINDTALKERS
2 LILO & STITCH
3 TRIPLE X
4 INSOMNIA
5 KILLING ME SOFTLY
6 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
7 GAMITAN
8 TRIPLE X
9 UNFAITHFUL
10 SWEETEST THING

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 UNFAITHFUL
2 TRIPLE X
3 LILO & STITCH
4 GAMITAN
5 BIGLANG LIKO
6 ORANGE COUNTY
7 STUART LITTLE 2
8 HIGH CRIMES

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 STUART LITTLE 2
2 CLOSED
3 GAMITAN
4 TRIPLE X
5 ABOUT A BOY
6 LILO & STITCH
7 CLOSED
8 MEGIDDO

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 TRIPLE X
2 ABOUT A BOY
3 LILO & STITCH
4 SWEETEST THING
5 UNFAITHFUL
6 GAMITAN

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 GAMITAN
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 TRIPLE X
4 LILO & STITCH

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 TRIPLE X
2 GAMITAN
3 INSOMNIA
4 D' URAGONS

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 TRIPLE X
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 LILO & STITCH
4 GAMITAN
5 POWERPUFF GIRLS
6 STUART LITTLE 2

SM BICUTAN
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1 SWEETEST THING
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/10:45
LFS/11:00 LMF/1:05 END

2 TRIPLE X
11:30 MF/1:25/3:20/5:15/7:10/
9:05/11:00 LMF/12:30 END

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Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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NOW SHOWING

Galleria 632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279
1 THX TRIPLE X
2 TRIPLE X
3 THE SWEETEST THING
4 INSOMIA
5 GAMITAN
6 UNFAITHFUL
7 SEX-ZEN/HUMAN EATER
8 LILO & STITCH
9 KILLING ME SOFTLY
10 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS

Ermita 536 -7809- 12
1 TRIPLE X
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4 THE SWEETEST THING
5 GAMITAN
6 LILO & STITCH
7 INSOMIA

Metro East - Marcos hway 687- 8193 / 8280
1 UNFAITHFUL
2 THE SWEETEST THING
3 MORE ANTS.../SEX-ZEN
4 LILO & STITCH
5 TRIPLE X
6 INSOMIA
7 GAMITAN
8 KILLING ME SOFTLY

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30
1 SEX-ZEN/KILLING ME SOFTLY
2 TRIPLE X
3 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4 THE SWEETEST THING
5 LILIO & STITCH
6 INSOMIA
7 UNFAITHFUL
8 GAMITAN

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838
1 TRIPLE X
2 THE SWEETEST THING
3 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
4 INSOMIA
5 GAMITAN
6 LILO & STITCH

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459
1 TRIPLE X
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 LILO & STITCH
4 HIGH CRIMES
5 THE URAGONS
6 ABOUT A BOY

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78
1 TRIPLE X
2 STUART LITTLE
3 KILLING ME SOFTLY
4 ABOUT A BOY
5 LILO & STITCH
6 ANG GALING-GALING/GAMITAN

Star Mills- San Fernando, Pamp. 875- 192 / 961 5318 / 5270
1 ABOUT A BOY
2 GAMITAN
3 UNFAITHFUL
4 THE SWEETEST THING
5 TRIPLE X
6

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http: //www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Sept. 11 remembered

AS Sept. 11 approaches, media organizations all over the world are coming up with commemorative specials in honor of the people who died in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

Other tributes in the works include a number of concerts at which Mozart's "Requiem" will be performed by symphony orchestras and chorales, from the USA to Latvia.

Each performance will begin at 8:46 a.m. on Sept. 11, the time of the first attack on the World Trade Center.

But the most visible tributes will be on television. After CNN's recent special, the National Geographic Channel leads off on Sept. 7 at 10 p.m. with "Through These Eyes." Walk the streets of New York with National Geographic photographer **Steve McCurry** as he shows images of Sept. 11 and the days immediately following.

For years, McCurry has traveled to international war zones, capturing the human face of conflicts all over the world. He has gone to Afghanistan 16 times, and was even jailed in Pakistan.

Yet, he says, he has never witnessed anything like the attack on the World Trade Center last September. He arrived home in manhattan from Asia just hours before. Grabbing his camera, he shot images of the twin towers on fire from the roof of his apartment building. Then he spent the next two days at "ground zero."

("Through These Eyes" will be replayed at 9 p.m. on Sept. 11.)

Another show, "Tales from Ground Zero," sees the tragedy from a unique angle: Share the poignant stories of four-legged companions and their experiences during and after the Sept. 11 disaster.

A man is saved from the World Trade Center by his seeing-eye dog. An owner searches for her pet pug after they were separated by the post-collapse devastation. a rescue dog does its job. A cat gives birth to kittens inside Ground Zero. And a pack of friendly pups help heal people who are experiencing emotional pain.

("Tales from Ground Zero" airs at 9 p.m. on Sept. 7, and 8 p.m. on Sept. 11.)

Feedback

FROM **Willie Revillame**, who's just made his comeback on TV with the "wish-fulfillment" show, "Willingly Yours": "I read your column about my show, and I really appreciate your objective comments. *'Wag kang magalala at ako mismo ang pupuna kung kami'y may pagkukulang sa mga taong dapat tulungan.*

"Pls. be my guide *sa aming* show *kung ano man sa tingin mo ang dapat naming gawin sa paglilingkod namin sa publiko*. Thank you for watching the show. *Masaya ako dahil may dalawang programa na nakakatulong sa mga kapatid nating kapus-palad*."

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Haven for book lovers

THE BOOKS for less bargain bookstore has opened on the second floor of Korben Place, (91 Roces Ave., QC) with thousands of titles to choose from—children's books, tomes on design, art, business and health, bestsellers, inspirational books, schoolbooks, comics, magazines, etc!

The new Papemelroti store is also located at Korben Place, as is Cafe Papemelroti, where Mediterranean dishes are served. Call 371-4539.

Gibson and Phoenix in 'Signs'

Mel Gibson and **Joaquin Phoenix** play brothers in **M. Night Shyamalan**'s latest hit, "Signs."

The two popular actors were drawn to the project because they felt challenged by the filmmaker's intent to go beyond the supernatural or sci-fi ramifications of the appearance of mysterious "crop circle" on the farm owned by Gibson's character.

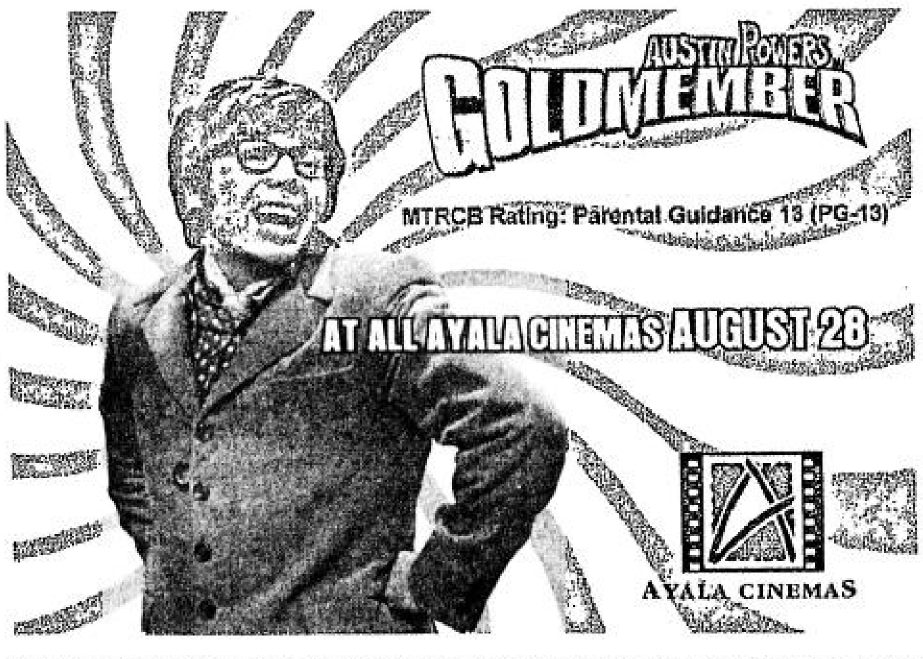
They liked Shyamalan's penchant for incorporating elements of the supernatural to more effectively tell the story of people working through an emotional struggle.

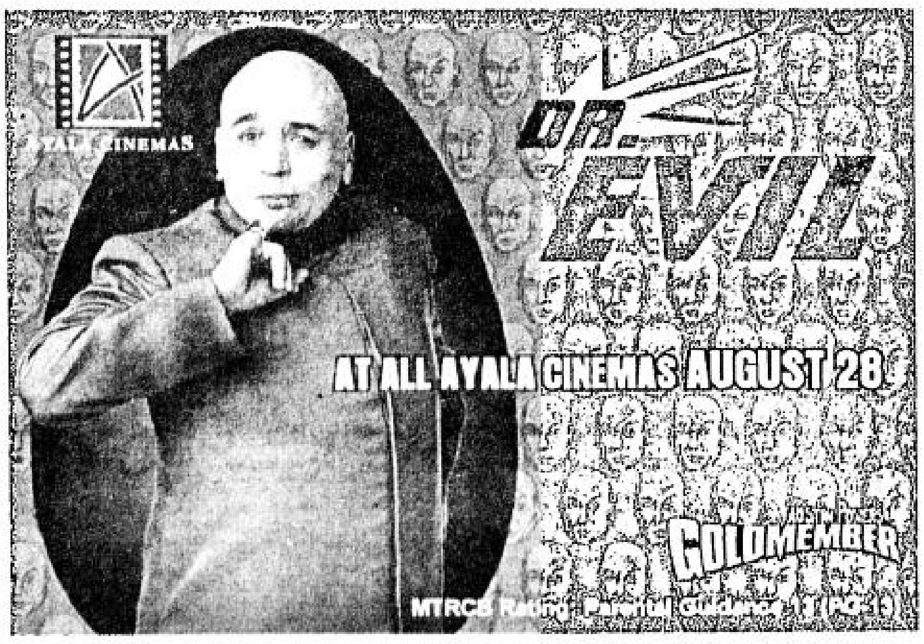
As director puts it, "They serve as devices for testing people, finding out what they're made of, and getting them to say what they need to say to their loved ones."

The film begins with Gibson's family in a broken state, as the result of a traumatic loss. In particular, Gibson has to reevaluate his faith. In doing so, he's decided what's most important is for him to protect his family.

Thus, when the crop circles appear on his property, he's alarmed not yet knowing that they will ultimately help him and his family sort their daunting problems and feelings out.

AYALA CINEMAS
Foxxy
AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS AUGUST 28
AUSTIN POWERS GOLDMEMBER


AUSTIN POWERS GOLDMEMBER
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS AUGUST 28
AYALA CINEMAS


AYALA CINEMAS
DR. EVIL
AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS AUGUST 28
GOLDMEMBER
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	GAMITAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BIGLANG LIKO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	UNFAITHFUL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SWEETEST THING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	INSOMNIA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	SEZ & ZEN
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	GAMITAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTEHN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BIYAK NA GUBAT / WILD SIDE
ODEON	TRIPLE XL
ODEON-2	TIME MACHINE / TAMPISAW
ROBEN	GAMITAN
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SUM OF ALL FEARS / 7 DAYS TO LIVE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	SEXZ &ZEN THE UNTOLD STORY
REMAR	GAMITAN
REMAR-2	BIGLANG LIKO

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	GAMITAN
B	
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	LILO & STITCH
CINEMA-2	TRIPLE X

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
CINEMA-3	SWEETEST THING
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	8 LEGGED FREAKS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HUMAN EATER
CINEMA-6	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-7	D' DRAGONS
CINEMA-8	SEX & ZEN UNTOLD STORY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	INSOMNIA
CINEMA-12	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
CINEMA-14	LILO & STITCH
CINEMA-15	GAMITAN

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA
CINEMA-5	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-6	SELDA

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

LILO & STITCH GP 1:30,3:30,5:30, 7:30,9:30	TRIPLE X P13 11:50,2:25,5:00, 7:35,10:10	INSOMNIA R13 12:20,2:45,5:10, 7:35,10:00
UNFAITHFUL R18 11:40,2:10,4:40, 7:15,9:50	Sweetest Thing R18 12:30,2:20,4:10, 6:00,7:50,9:40	TRIPLE X P13 12:50,3:25

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CINEMA 1
TRIPLE X
11:30, 2:05, 4:40,
7:15, 10:00
P13

CINEMA 2
LILO & STITCH GP 18
UNFAITHFUL R18

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WENDELL RAMOS
MAUI TAYLOR
Gamitan
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"Maui Taylor captures the sensibilities of the 21st century Pinoy zeitgeist." -Peque Gallaga, Renowned Director
Maui Taylor: "Sweet girl gone very bold." - Mandell Rafeca-Damark, The Philippine Star
"Higit sa lahat ang hinangaan namin ay ang pagkakagawa ng pelikula." - Len Bukas, Tabloid
"Quark knows the film medium well..." -Mario Bautista, Manila Bulletin
"Maui Taylor: Small but delectable." -Eric Ramos, FHM
"Maui expresses a wide range of emotions from reasonable innocence to crazy wickedness." -Edgar O. Cruz, The Daily Tribune
"The movie meshes sex, intrigue, scandal and manipulation into one powerful and gripping web." -Corantine Fe L. Intiara, Malaya
directed by QUARK HENARES
VIVA
NOW SHOWING

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"TWO THUMBS UP!" -EBERT & ROEPER
"YOU WON'T JUST BE ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT... YOU'LL BE JUMPING OUT OF IT!" -CLAY SMITH, ACCESS HOLLYWOOD
"A SUSPENSE-FILLED TWILIGHT-ZONE THRILLER.' -JOEL SIEGEL, GOOD MORNING AMERICA
"ONE OF THE BEST MOVIES OF THE YEAR." -JIM SVEJDA, KNX/CBS RADIO
'FULL OF SURPRISES." -DAVID SHEEHAN, CBS-TV
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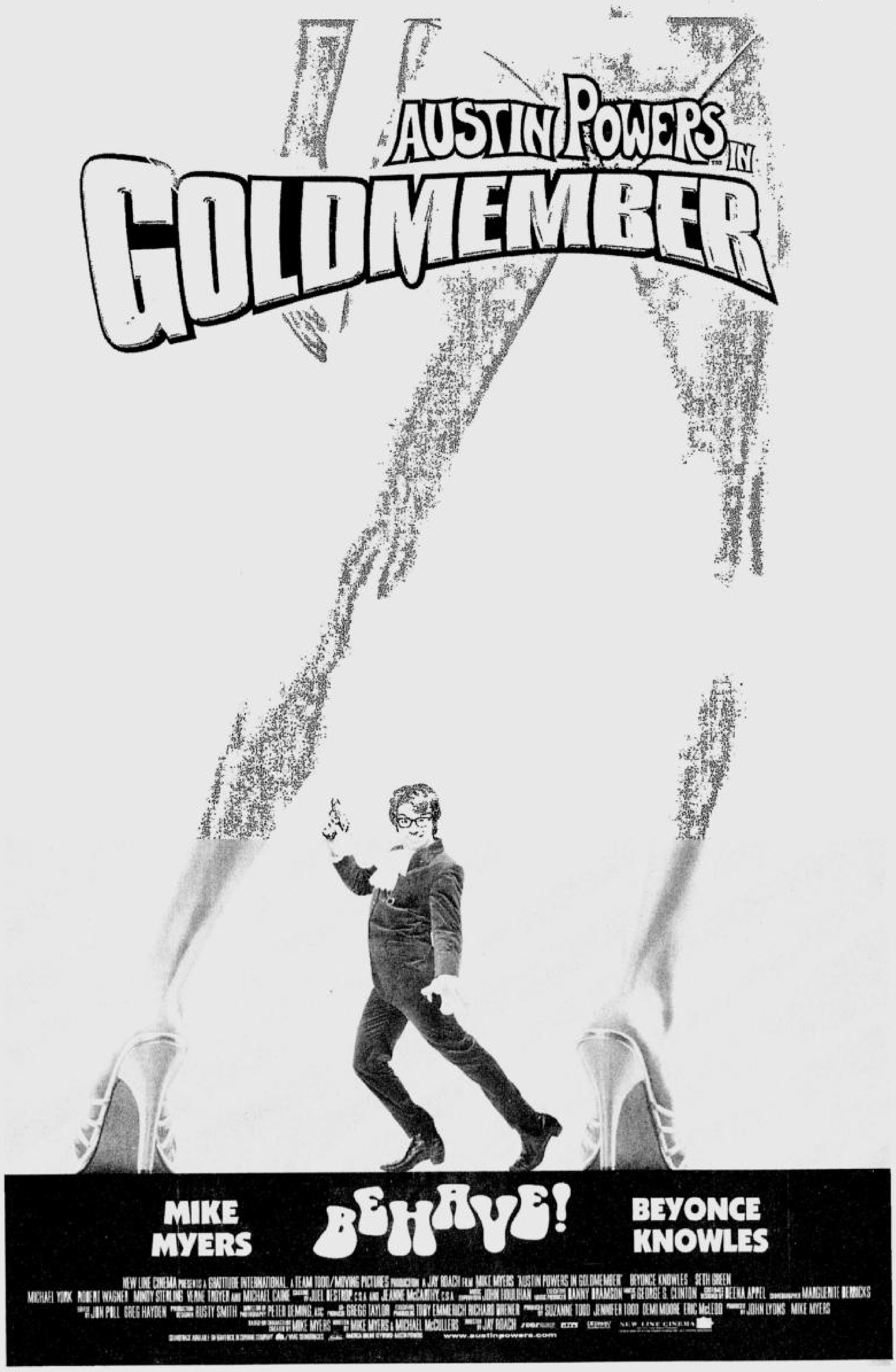
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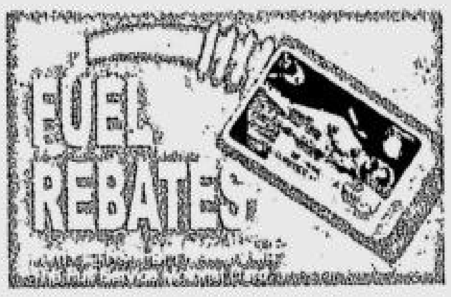
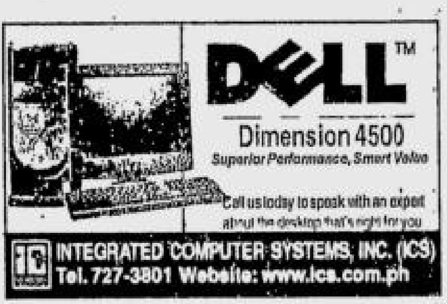


TUESDAY,
AUGUST 27, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ❧ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma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Camacho: Cerberus still keen on RP

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday said a planned investment of Cerberus Ltd. in Thailand did not prejudice the plan of the US investment fund to pursue $1.5 billion worth of corporate restructuring and housing mortgage sales in the Philippines.

"I am aware that they made an investment in Thailand but it does not necessarily follow that they would no longer pursue their planned investments in the Philippines," he said.

"I don't think that this is a case of either Thailand or the Philippines," he added.

Camacho said that Cerberus, like other asset management companies and fund managers, was waiting for the enactment of the legislation on the Special Purpose Asset Vehicles. Once passed, the law would provide incentives to asset management companies that would buy the bad loans and assets of banks.

The finance secretary said he had not received any information from Cerberus that it was slashing its planned investments in the Philippines.

A senior government official earlier said he had received a letter from the US firm indicating its impatience with the progress of the SPAV bill and would put $500 million of the funds earmarked for the Philippines to Thailand.

The $1.5-billion investment committed by Cerberus to the Philippines would have been funneled largely through the take out and sale of billions in pesos worth of bad accounts in the banking system, focusing on the government's housing mortgages.

Cerberus is said to be the second-largest corporate restructuring firm in the United States with $7 billion worth of funds in its portfolio.

The company had forged two separate agreements with the Philippine government worth $1.5 billion during the state visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo to Washington last year. This was the same time that the legislation on SPAV was progressing in Congress.

The first MOU was an understanding that Cerberus may acquire about $1 billion worth of the government's housing mortgage.

The government, through agencies like the Pag-Ibig Fund and Home Guaranty Corp., has more than P100 billion worth of mortgage that it could sell to an asset-management company like Cerberus.

The $500-million MOU was for Cerberus to put up a Philippine business recovery fund that would be used to facilitate the re-

CAMACHO/ B4

Analysts expect peso to rebound soon

POLITICAL risks and a government budget spinning out of control have put the peso under fire, pushing it to eight-month lows against the US dollar, but analysts expect it to stage a bounce soon.

Currency strategists said a run of bad news and a weakening Japanese yen hurt the peso in recent weeks, eclipsing stronger fundamentals such as a sound balance-of-payments position, low inflation and healthy cash reserves.

The peso fell to 52.30/35 per dollar on Friday, down more than one percent in the week and its lowest level since December last year, a day after data showed the budget deficit up to July had exceeded the full-year target.

If that wasn't enough, news on Thursday that extremist Muslim group Abu Sayyaf beheaded two Christian preachers they had taken hostage also put the spotlight back on security risks.

And President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration has been reeling from the high profile resignations of two cabinet members and the chief tax collector in the past couple of months.

"Recently, there has been a succession of negatives, so it is a bit difficult right now to be altogether too positive on the peso," said Ray Sarris, strategist at Credit Suisse First Boston.

"But the reality is that the balance of payments remains very supportive, the large current account surplus is rising and, while the budget numbers are bad, they are not disastrous."

The central bank concurred. Governor Rafael Buenaventura said on Friday the peso's fall was brought on by regional weakness and domestic bad news and was only temporary.

A snap Reuters poll on Friday placed the average of forecasts for the peso in a 51.25-51.50 range at the end of three months, and economists said the picture would be clearer in about two weeks.

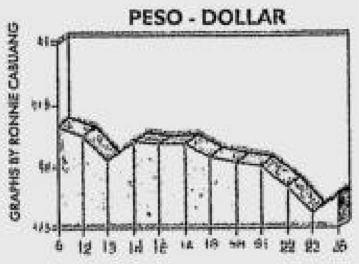
"When the dollar-yen tops out, if the US economic numbers still

ANALYSIS/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 52.23 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 26, 2002

¥ 119.72 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 26, 2002

GOLD: $307-307.50
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 26, 2002

CURRENCIES

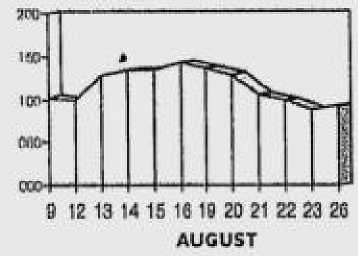
August 26, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.027855	1.000000	52.2840
Japan	Yen	0.008594	0.008361	0.4371
United Kingdom	Pound	1.563162	1.520800	79.5135
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.131778	0.128207	6.7032
Switzerland	Franc	0.679439	0.661026	34.5611
Canada	Dollar	0.660363	0.642467	33.5907
Singapore	Dollar	0.585673	0.569801	29.7915
Australia	Dollar	0.559255	0.544099	28.4477
Bahrain	Dinar	2.726551	2.652661	138.6917
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.274088	0.266660	13.9421
Brunei	Dollar	0.582982	0.567183	29.6546
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000116	0.000113	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024322	0.023663	1.2372
UAE	Dirham	0.279879	0.272294	14.2366
Korea	Won	0.000862	0.000839	0.0439
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.972900	50.8671
Argentina	Real	0.285515	0.277778	14.5233
Brazil	Real	0.330075	0.321130	16.7900
Denmark	Kroner	0.134677	0.131027	6.8506
India	Rupee	0.021215	0.020640	1.0791
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.270524	0.263193	13.7608
Mexico	New Peso	0.104447	0.101616	5.3129
New Zealand	Dollar	0.479499	0.466505	24.3907
Norway	Kroner	0.134834	0.131180	6.8586

STOCK MARKET

Stocks turnover hit record low

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

TRADING volumes on the local stock exchange were at a record low yesterday as bargain-hunting in selected shares pushed the index slightly higher by the close.

Traders said investors were groping for fresh news to dictate market direction after first-half earnings failed to give strong cues.

The reported pullout by US investment fund firm Cerberus Ltd. of a portion of its Philippine-dedicated funds did not affect the market in a big way, because the fund was interested in the mortgage business and not in Philippine stocks, analysts said.

"There was bargain-hunting on select issues. It was not strong so the buying was not broad-based. There really is a lack of interest from investors," said Spencer Yap, an analyst at BPI Securities Inc.

Turnover sank to a record low of P74.4 million, eclipsing the previous low of P130 million recorded in October 2001, days after global markets sank in light of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

The main stock index rose 5.6 points or 0.52 percent to end at 1,092.86 points after trading in a tight range of less than 10 points.

Gainers led losers almost two-to-one, with 40 issues unchanged.

Dominant phone firm PLDT led the market higher, gaining P7.50 or 2.65 percent to end at P290.

Analysts said the market was likely to be range-bound in coming sessions, with a possibility of a rally if second-quarter economic growth to be announced on Thursday came out above market estimates.

Reuters

Globe launches Internet service

AYALA-OWNED Globe Telecom Inc. yesterday launched the country's first pay-per-use broadband Internet service targeted for individuals, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and small office/home office (Soho) users.

Globe is banking on the pay-per-use convenience of the service in generating usage volume for it, the company said in a statement yesterday.

Instead of fixed monthly charges, subscribers will be charged for the number of hours used in excess of the minimum number of hours per month.

"The advantage of this is that customers get to manage their Internet usage or cost without sacrificing quality of service. SMEs, Sohos and other businesses that still use dial-up now have the chance to use broadband Internet without the price barrier. They can also scale up their Internet speed as their needs grow," Globe assistant vice president for business communications Jesus Romero said.

The pay-per-use digital subscriber line (DSL) service is offered under Globe's data services brand, GlobeQuest, and is divided into two categories: GlobeQuest DSL Lite for multiple users and GlobeQuest DSL Solo for individual users.

GlobeQuest DSL Lite provides an upstream and downstream speed of up to 1.5 megabits per second for a monthly service fee of P2,500. This package comes with 20 hours of free Internet access with excess usage placed at P2 per minute.

GlobeQuest DSL Solo, on the other hand, offers an upstream and downstream speed of up to 384 kilobits per second with two subcategories: a usage-based package and an unlimited access package.

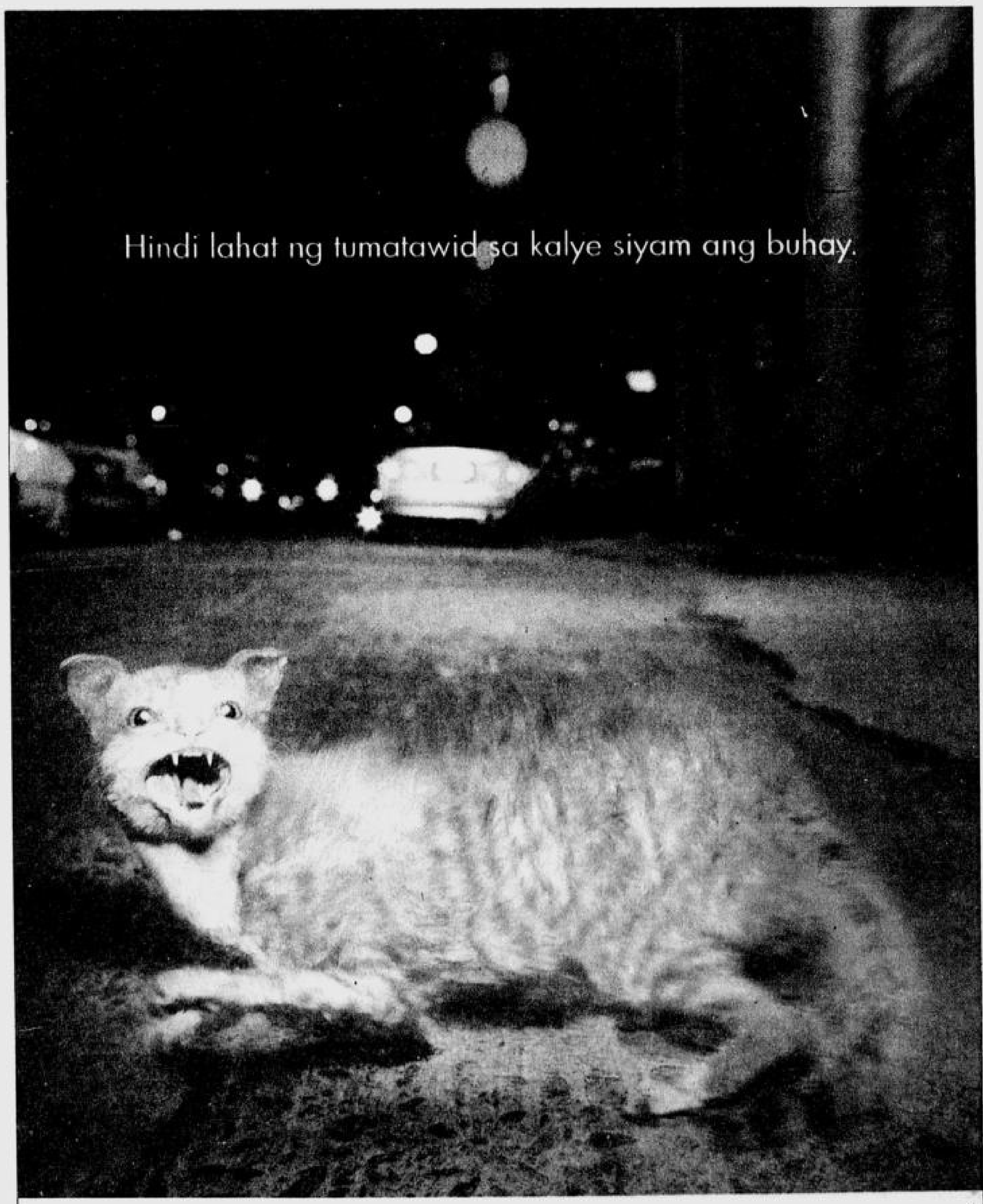
The usage-based package is offered for a monthly service fee of P1,500 for 30 hours and a charge of P1 per minute beyond that. A maximum charge of P3,000 per month could also be paid for unlimited access within one month.

The unlimited package, on the other hand, is offered at P2,500 per month.

Abigail L. Ho

WHAT'S INSIDE

▩ **New round of oil price hike seen**/ B12
▩ **Joytoy's daily prayers heard** /B3
▩ **Breaktime by Conrad Banal** /B2



A lot of motorcycle riders have a habit of not turning on their headlights and this can be very dangerous. If you ride a motorcycle, keep your headlights on, night and day.
Para mabuti kang makakita at mabuti kang makita.

Shell RIDE RIGHT

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Ihap opposes 10% discount on PSE initial public offerings

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE INVESTMENT Houses Association of the Philippines has opposed the Philippine Stock Exchange's plan to grant small local investors a 10-percent discount on initial public offerings.

In a recent meeting, Ihap told the PSE and the Securities and Exchange Commission that the proposed discount would only add to the cost of conducting an IPO.

It is also unlikely to stir the market up, they added.

Ihap also said the proposed discount would not be good for a company undertaking an IPO, as small investors were likely to dump their stocks on the listing date, thus, bringing down share prices.

SEC director Jose Aquino said Ihap has instead suggested that the 10 percent discount be discretionary rather than mandatory.

The PSE, however, has insisted that the listing rules be revised to include the 10 percent IPO discount, otherwise, no issuer would do it.

The exchange has maintained that the IPO discount for small investors would help generate significant public interest in the local equities market, which is currently suffering from among others, lack of investor interest.

At least 10 percent of all shares in an IPO are currently reserved for small investors.

Small investors refer to those investors willing to subcribe to a minimum board lot or whose subscription does not exceed P25,000.

This provision was patterned after the listing rules of the Hong Kong and Malaysian stock exchanges that provide small investors a 5-10 percent discount on the final IPO prices, respectively.

The PSE board has even raised the level to 15 percent, depending on the issuer's discretion and when the issue is at least five times oversubscribed.

The SEC welcomed the proposal saying that it was a move "in the right direction."

Aquino said that the Ihap has also opposed the proposed revision of PSE rules that sought to raise the amount set aside for bookbuilding from 30 percent to 60 percent.

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- Buying in on project goals (understanding the perspective of different stakeholders; Seven Habits of Highly Effective People; Games & Role Playing)

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Idle of the two will do

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

BY tomorrow, if my cell phone hasn't been pulling my leg, this cute administration of Gloriaetta shall have a new BIR commissioner—officially.

Early yesterday morning, Finance Secretary Jose Isisdro "the Whiz" Camacho was still doing eenie-meenie-minie-moe. He was still trying to recruit either Cora de la Paz, the SSS chair and president, or Willie Parayno, the former customs commissioner.

But I have it from a highly reliable cell phone that the idle of the two—meaning, the one who is not in public service at the moment—has accepted the job. Bet on it, all ye tax lawyers and consultants, and tell your clients that it's going to be Parayno.

Actually, at least if you ask big business, either of the two will do. The most telling sign that either would be the right choice is that, well, both of them have been reluctant to take the job.

That, according to my conscience, is a wonderful sign. Anybody who kills to get the job must have something else in mind. And it cannot just be sex.

* * *

ORIGINALLY, anyway, the Whiz wanted the Palace, featuring Gloriaetta, of course, to make the official announcement by tomorrow. They were beaten to it by nosy newsmen.

Word spread around like teenagers on "E" by mid-morning yesterday that Parayno got the job. In fact, he even contacted his former *alalay* at the customs bureau who happened to be my special textmate. His wife was never the jealous type, luckily.

Anyway, a former military guy, Parayno did well at customs during the time of Kuya Eddie. He earned the reputation as a houseboy. You know, cleaning up the bureau! Somehow, big business never complained as much as they did about dirt in customs.

For whether the BIR people like it or not, Parayno, as an executive, knows what it's like to effect major changes in a government outfit notorious for corruption. In his time, he computerized the customs bureau against all odds.

The computer system lessened the discretion of customs people. Discretion, as they say in smuggling circles, is the better part of *bayad*.

* * *

TODAY, Parayno is the vice chair of the group of companies of Bert Lina, the brother of Interior Secretary Joey Lina. My point is, Parayno manages to make good honest money.

To accept the job as head of the government outfit which is THE most notorious for corruption, therefore, is for Parayno like telling his family that, as in his customs days, it's belt-tightening time again, if they can still afford to buy belts.

The pay in government service, to begin with, is not that great. If you are honest, it always takes a big financial sacrifice to join the government. In the BIR, moreover, honesty is not only the best *palusot*, but it is also the best politics.

Pressure always bears upon the BIR chief, coming mainly from our beloved politicos. Today, in particular, the BIR is right in the middle of a VAT campaign. I've heard that the latest figure on the misdeclared VAT of businesses is already P7 billion. Wow!

My info is that this cute administration is tempted to reveal bigtime names among the cheating companies. Now don't tell me those big guys will not use their political connections!

* * *

AS it is, we already have some bad news about the budget deficit. This cute administration is already over the limit for the year, with four more months to go. Fortunately for all of us there isn't a single sign around us that the world is going to end. The sky is not falling, the mountains are not crumbling, and Abu Sabaya is not risen from the dead.

But we get a lot of media bombardment about this problem over the budget deficit because some analysts think that the deficit is a big deal.

It used to be a big deal, but that was when the International Monetary Fund loved to bombard us with things called "conditionalities." Among them was the budget deficit. It was a big deal when we exceeded the IMF limit, simply because we could not get the IMF money.

* * *

BUT today the budget deficit is only a big deal to members of Congress. Why? Here's a hint – it has something to do with pork.

Because of big cuts in government funding releases from hereon, maybe the best thing for our beloved legislators to do is commit suicide. And will they please do it all the same time?

I don't think that office girls are so worried about the deficit that they will stop having a manicure slash pedicure because if they do, what will happen to my foot fetish?

For, really, business groups think legislators, particularly those in the House of Representatives, are overly reacting to the cut in their pork releases. Believe me, there isn't going to be too much of a political backlash. Congressmen cannot afford to get mad at this cute administration for long. What about the pork next year? Elections are just around the kerosene-drenched sidewalks!

* * *

SURELY you got that message on your usually reliable cell phone to put a blue ribbon around your car if you agree to what MMDA chair Bayani Fernando is doing.

Sure, why not, but can I please borrow your Mercedes Benz first, boss?

Boss BF, as Fernando is fondly called by his own propaganda materials in Marikina when he was still the mayor there—meaning, before his wife became the mayor—drove to Nepa Q-mart yesterday in his black executive car.

With him, of course, was a lot of police and media escorts. I saw his convoy. Everybody had to make way for them. Their emergency lights flashed. Ahead of the pack, MMDA traffic enforcers on motorcycles were directing everybody to make way.

I almost did not make it to the island in the middle of Edsa safely.

Frankly, I can put a blue ribbon on my car to express support for boss BF, why not? I just wish he can do something not only about the vendors but also about all those hundreds of vehicles parked on sidewalks.

DVD format fight looms over new NEC, Toshiba high-capacity disc

TOKYO—Rivalry among industry titans over next-generation DVDs heated up on Monday when Japan's Toshiba and NEC said they would propose a cheaper type of high-capacity disc incompatible with a format advanced by Sony and others.

Toshiba said its format for blue-laser DVDs, set to hit the market next year and able to store huge volumes of data, thanks to blue light's short wavelength, was more compatible with existing red-laser DVDs and would smooth the transition from red to blue.

"From the consumer's side, when a new type of player comes out, they still want to be able to watch the DVDs they already own," said Toshiba spokesperson Midori Suzuki.

"From the manufacturer's side, with our format they can use many of the same facilities they use to make existing DVDs, so costs are much lower."

Despite such arguments for cost and convenience, the format would be incompatible with the Blu-ray standard for blue-laser DVDs unveiled in February by Sony Corp., Panasonic brand maker Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. and seven other electronics giants from Japan, South Korea and Europe.

The world's DVD equipment makers have already been hurt by a fragmentation of formats for red-laser DVD recorders, blamed for hindering the take-off of that market.

Although DVD recorder sales have been strong in recent months, several industry executives have urged that blue-laser players and recorders avoid the mistakes of their red-laser predecessors. *Reuters*

Analysts expect peso . . .

From page B1

look good and risk indicators such as corporate issuance and spreads in Philippines look better, then you can see a rally in the peso," said Bhanu Baweja, strategist with UBS Warburg.

Heaps of cash

A comparison of year-to-date performances in Asia puts the peso close to the bottom. It has shed nearly 1.5 percent this year, while many of its neighbors' currencies have risen.

Worries about the fiscal deficit played a big role in the drop. The January-July fiscal deficit hit P133.1 billion, overshooting a 2002 target of P130 billion or 3.3 percent of GDP. The government has said it will maintain its deficit target.

Still, analysts said, an overshooting deficit had been priced into the peso, so efforts to rein it in or raise revenues would now work in its favor.

The government has also funded most of its borrowing requirements for 2002 and holds huge cash reserves, which some economists estimate at more than P100 billion.

"There's no crisis in our view. They are not going to be forced into borrowing on terms that are highly unfavorable because they simply do not need the cash," Deutsche Bank said in a research note on Friday.

The external balance of payments was also comfortable, with the current account surplus around 6 to 7 percent of GDP.

Around 36 percent of Philippine exports, mostly electronics, are to the United States and 18 percent to Japan, but exports contribute just over 30 percent to GDP, a lower proportion than for many other Asian countries, analysts said.

Skewed markets

Among negatives for the peso, apart from the current bearish sentiment, Philippine stocks have fallen 7 percent this year, foreign reserves stand just over $16 billion, and foreign portfolio inflows in the first seven months were $185.7 million, far below what Asia's favorite investment destinations receive.

Not surprisingly, markets are also worried about the fate of National Power Corp.'s $750 million worth of ADB-backed overseas bonds due to be sold this month or in September.

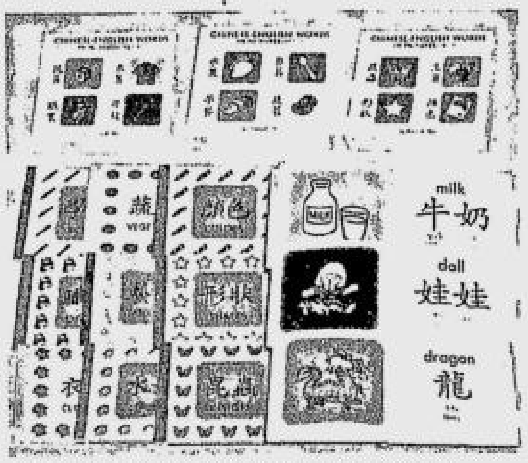
Another factor that could work against the peso was the preference of local banks to hold deposits and loans in dollars, said Vincent Low, strategist at Merrill Lynch.

"There is a lot of financial intermediation in dollars, so current account surpluses may not translate into currency strength," he said. Low predicts the peso will dip to 54 by December but rally to 52 in 2003.

As well, traders said commercial markets had been complacent about exchange risk when the peso was stable earlier this year, and last week's fall had increased the pressure to hedge dollar exposures, both in the onshore and offshore non deliverable forward market. *Reuters*

Joytoy's daily prayers heard, corners 60% market share

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao



EDUCATIONAL maternials on the Chinese langusge.

JOSEPH Wu finished his architecture studies at the Mapua Institute of Technology but he could not take the board exams because he was Chinese citizen.

He and three other Chinese classmates were in the same predicament, so they thought of putting up their own printing company so that they would have something to do after school.

It took a year for them to finish the project study but Wu's friends lost interest along the way. So with P15,000 he borrowed from his parents, Wu decided to go it alone. Thus, was born Princeton Press in March 1962.

"I was really interested in the printing business because I used to do letterings or logos for a friend who was involved in a printing press. From there I learned about the business even before I graduated from college," Wu said in an interview.

Princeton Press started with a small Minerva press, which printed calling cards and invoices. Three years later, Wu invested in an offset printing machine, which got deals to print the labels for companies such as Universal Robina Corp. and Purefoods Corp.

"I was the salesman, manager and delivery boy. I also did the accounting at the start," Wu said.

The small printing press that started in a rented office with five employees including Wu took a major step forward in 1973 when it was awarded the license from The Walt Disney Co. to locally produce children's jigsaw puzzles under the brand name "Joytoy," making it one of the first local companies to be given the license.

Walt Disney

"We approached The Walt Disney Co. and convinced them that the Philippines was a viable sales market for them. We had to send them samples of our products, show them the quality of work. We had to go through a long approval process before we got the license," Wu's son Joseph Jr. said.

The first Walt Disney licensed products became the springboard for the Joytoy line which now includes memo pads, address books, paper folders, coin banks, hand fans, utility boxes, photo picture frames, posters, educational toys, gift wrappers, party goods and other novelties.

The company has gone out of its traditional printing business and the name was changed from Princeton Press into JC Lucas Creative Products Inc., after Wu's father who came to the Philippines from China to teach and later on preach.

From Walt Disney, the company's licenses have expanded to include Sanrio/Hello Kitty Characters, Snoopy/Peanuts, Looney Tunes, Power Puff Girls, Batman, Winnie the Pooh and Sesame Street.

SUCCESS STORY

Aside from the quality of the products, the affordable prices and the wide distribution, Wu attributes the company's success to the high morale of the 130 workers and the daily practice of their Christian faith.

"Every morning without fail, we have a short prayer and Bible study at 8 a.m. I believe that this practice generated a feeling of oneness in the company, of loyalty. This is why many of our first employees' children now work for us," Wu said.

Wu said that it was not unusual for him to attend a wedding or a town fiesta with his employees, and that all 130 of his employees feel comfortable about talking to him about personal or official matters.

"I guess they feel safe with the company and I am fortunate that they do not abuse their privileges," Wu said.

Market share

The unity of effort has resulted in Joytoy's cornering a 60 percent of the market for educational toys and novelty items, with products sold in department stores such as the SM group, Landmark, National Book Store, Gift Gate and Ever.

The Wu family is far from resting on its laurels and has instead continued to invest in research and development to come up with better products to serve the public.

From selling retail items, for instance, Joytoy has been contracted to produce promotional items such as the hand fans of McDonalds, cake décor of Goldilocks Bakeshop, the coin banks of Bangko de Oro, party favors of Jollibee and giveaways for Kentucky Fried Chicken.

JC Lucas has also penetrated the export market in 1981, thus, Philippine-made products are now sold in Australia, United States, Norway, Guam, Taiwan, Singapore and Japan.

It has also put up affiliated companies. Children's Wearhouse Corp. sells a wide range of garments and accessories for children and adults while JC Bilingual Educational Products provide educational materials for children who want to learn more about Chinese and English.

One of its latest products is a line of materials to help children and adults alike to read and write Chinese, which is increasingly popular now that the world wants to take advantage of the Chinese market.

Wu said the line of Chinese-Filipino educational materials is just the first of many products that JC Lucas wants to explore in the educational materials market.

COUNTRY SHARES
As of August 27, 2002

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A	-	1,650,000
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	725,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	95,000/105,000*
CAMP JOHN HAY	260,000	265,000
CAPITOL HILLS	107,500	110,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	165,000	180,000
CLUB FILIPINO	-	200,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B/C**	-	350,000/450,000*/500,000**
EVERCREST A	135,000*	100,000
FONTANA D/C*/B**	-	80,000/150,000*/200,000**
FOREST HILLS A/C*	210,000/250,000**	230,000/260,000**
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	270,000/280,000*	
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,750,000	2,900,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	600,000/700,000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	100,000	115,000/125,000*
MIMOSA IND/C3**	95,000/375,000**	100,000/300,000**
MT. MALARAYAT A/C*	-	300,000/425,000*
ORCHARD A/B/C**	Please call	Please call
PUERTO AZUL	-	115,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	-	220,000
RIVIERA A/C**	300,000**	150,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	350,000	380,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B/C**	-	50,000/150,000*/180,000**
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B/C**		90,000/250,000*/300,000**
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A/B*		1.6M
SUBIC BAY IND./CORP.*	-	200,000/300,000*
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC/GOLF*	800,000*	400,000/650,000*
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	780,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	150,000	170,000
VALLEY GOLF	250,000	
WACKWACK	4,775,000	

Available Lessors for Playing Rights: Calatagan, Camp John Hay (Free) Canlubang, Canyon Woods, The Country Club (Free) Celebrity, Eagleridge Eastridge, Forest Hills, Makati Sports, Malarayat, Orchard, Riviera, Sta. Elena, Southwoods (Free), Tagaytay H-lands & Midlands, Valley Golf, Wack Wack & Others & NEED LESSOR - Manila Golf Individual & Alabang & Rockwell

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Conference on IT Outsourcing
11 September 2002, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Shangri-La Hotel, Makati – Quezon Ballroom

The conference will focus on two aspects:

- **Outsourcing** – *Trends, cost reduction deals, procurement process, outsourcing issues; The UK market.*
  Guest Speaker: **Bob Aylott**, Director, Orbys and National Outsourcing Association of the UK
- **Capability Maturity Model (CMM)** *as one of the 'entrance tickets' to outsourcing*
  Guest Speaker: **Narayanan Sreenivas**, Managing Director, ECC International

The Conference is built around Bob Aylott's expertise in convincing companies in the UK and in Europe to outsource services and seeing to it that the outsourced services are delivered. This is covered during the morning session.

The afternoon session focuses on the need to demonstrate quality management capabilities to companies that wish to outsource and Narayanan Sreenivas will explain the tried and trusted model, the CMM.

The Conference fee is **Php4,000**. To register, contact Tes Acosta at 759-6680, 845-1324 or e-mail: tes@eccp.com

PROGRAM

8:00 am	**Registration**
8:30-9:20	**What and why do customers outsource?** Trends in outsourcing, Why customers outsource, The UK Market, The main players
9:20-10:10	**The deals customers now expect** Transformational and cost reduction deal, The key roles in transformational deals, The importance of offshore in cost reduction, Examples of good deals today
10:10-10:30	**Coffee Break**
10:30-11:15	**The procurement process** The traditional procurement process, How offshore changes procurement, Joint ventures as the delivery vehicle, The Enron effect
11:15-12:00	**The offshore supplier positioning** The onshore/offshore balance, Collaborative outsourcing issues, Managing the deal, Tomorrow's vision
12:00-12:30	**Open Forum**
12:30-2:00	**Lunch**
2:00	**Capability Maturity Model (CMM)** SEI - CMM - An Overview, Operational Definition of a Maturity Level, SEI - CMM - A Roadmap
3:45	**Coffee break**
4:00	What is the rationale / benefits of Implementation?, CMM Implementation - Philippine Experience
4:30-5:00	**Open Forum**

This conference is supported by gtz eitsc eccp

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Local IT sector cuts growth forecast

SANTA ROSA, Laguna—Local information technology firms are trimming by half their 2002 growth forecasts to about 5 percent due to fears of a second recession in the United States, industry leaders said yesterday.

They said a full recovery from the 2001 global electronics blowout was now more likely to occur no earlier than 2003 and 2004.

With the downscaled forecast, the country's electronics exports should rise to $22.99 billion this year instead of the original forecast of $24.09 billion, Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) chief Ernesto Santiago said.

Seipi is the umbrella body for the local IT industry.

Philippine IT exports plunged 20 percent to $21.9 billion last year, but industry revenues still accounted for 68 percent of all Filipino merchandise exports, official records showed.

Export revenues of the country's 715 IT companies rose by 6 percent from a year earlier in the first half of 2002, Santiago told a Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines industry briefing at an IT plant south of Manila.

"The first question being raised is: Can we achieve the same growth rate for the second half, meaning getting another 6 (percent)? What most of them are saying is it might be hard.

"Our initial projection of maybe getting 10 percent for the industry for this year may not be possible," he said, adding most were looking at a 5-percent expansion.

Early this year, the consensus forecast was the IT sector's recovery should occur in the second half, said Arthur Tan, chief executive of Integrated Microelectronics Inc., a subsidiary of Ayala Corp.

He said at the end of June, things had not "turned around as fast as they've expected."

The recovery was being pushed "further back another six months and into the early part of 2003, rather than banking that it's going to occur in the second half of the year."

Investment in the IT sector dipped by 41.9 percent from a year earlier to $720 million in 2001, when 12 companies downsized or closed shop, Santiago said.

Investment further plunged to $92 million in the first half of this year, and the Philippines would be lucky to double that for the whole year, he added.

"There are some changes in the global scene," Santiago said, citing fears of a "double-dip" recession where the US economy slumped again after a recovery.

Though Japanese firms account for a leading 30-percent share of all IT investments in the Philippines, the United States is the top export market, with 26 percent of all Filipino IT exports compared to 22 percent for Europe, 17 percent for Southeast Asia and 11 percent for Japan.

Santiago said assuming IT investments in the Philippines get back to billion-dollar levels, 2003 exports should surge to $28.9 billion, or just above the industry peak of $27.17 billion achieved in 2000.

Growth should accelerate to 25 percent in 2004 with revenues projected at $36.13 billion, he added. ***AFP***

'Bull Market Part 2' not in the can yet

종합주가지수
745.75
전일대비
0.63
거래량(천주)
292349
KOSPI 200
93.86
선물(최근월물)
94.30
전일대비
0.85
금융상품 수익
상품명 수익
상품명 수익

A SOUTH Korean man chats on a phone in front of an electronic stock market board in Seoul. Share prices closed flat after investors locked in gains obtained on the back of advances on Wall Street and positive South Korean economic growth data. REUTERS

NEW YORK—Investors love bull market sequels, but Wall Street is not signing up—at least not yet.

Feeding fresh fears about the stock market are gloomy economic numbers. The growth rate slowed in the second quarter after powering ahead in the first three months of the year. And early signs show the third quarter isn't looking up.

Industrial production in July would have posted its first decline this year without the support from Detroit's zero interest rates, which spurred heavy output of cars and trucks.

Consumer confidence was down in early August. More troubling is that the people's outlook for the next six months has deteriorated, according to the University of Michigan.

What's happening, Northern Trust Co. says, is the loss of $7.8 trillion in household wealth since stocks crashed in early 2000 is finally starting to have an impact.

The other thing that may eat away at the economy—if sustained—is a rise in the saving rate as consumers try to rebuild their net worth. History shows that when consumers shift from buying stuff and start to save, this long and drawn-out process of putting cash away for a rainy day can put a damper on the economy.

Faced with an uncertain labor market, millions of debt-burdened consumers are at a stage where they're squeezing water out of a stone and are focusing on paying off their bills. This is another negative for the economy because it means people are not spending.

"Frugality and debt reduction will translate into a weaker consumer spending trend," Northern Trust says.

Indeed, the mood of consumer confidence has now turned dramatically after climbing by a shocking 16 percent in a March sampling by the Conference Board. A drop in confidence has often been a prelude to a decline in real spending by consumers who generate two-thirds of economic growth.

Construction of new homes fell in July for the second straight month.

The Conference Board's index of leading economic indicators—a key gauge—sank in July at the fastest pace since the September attacks in the United States after slipping in June.

Indeed, there's no room for more disappointment. Another batch of bad economic news could put the whole stock market under renewed pressure.

The lowest interest rates in 40 years have helped keep the economy from dipping back into recession during the past year by fueling heavy buying of cars and sparking a boom in the real estate market. A rush by consumers to refinance mortgages has put billions of dollars into their pockets.

The Mortgage Bankers Association's index of mortgage applications is at a new high, with a massive 70 percent of the loans going to refinancing. Mortgage rates hover at a new historical low of about 6 percent.

The forces of supply and demand have sent home prices through the roof. The National Association of Realtors says home prices rocketed 12 percent to 30 percent in the red-hot markets in New York, Boston and parts of California during the 12 months ended in June.

This has made homeowners feel "rich," at least on paper, soothing some of the pain from their shriveled stock portfolios. Americans have been redirecting their household wealth toward their primary residences since stocks crashed. ***Reuters***

Philweb to pursue placement with Itogon-Suyoc

By Elena R. Torrijos

INTERNET firm Philweb.Com Inc. yesterday informed the Philippine Stock Exchange it would now pursue its private placement deal with Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc., as the temporary restraining order issued by a local court had already expired.

In a disclosure, Philweb corporate information officer Roberto Valdes said the restraining order had expired and that no preliminary injunction was issued by the Court of Appeals.

The appellate court earlier issued a TRO barring Itogon-Suyoc and the PSE from enforcing an order from the Securities and Exchange Commission exempting Philweb's private placement deal with Itogon-Suyoc from the PSE's additional listing rule.

This rule requires that all shareholders of a listed firm be given the right to subscribe to its shares if the discount price offered to investors is beyond 10 percent from the average market price.

The rule was intended to protect the rights of minority shareholders from unfair dilution.

In March, the SEC ordered the PSE to clear the way for the listing of new shares issued by Itogon-Suyoc to Philweb.

The commission rejected the stock exchange's appeal against the transaction.

Itogon-Suyoc, which sold a 40-percent stake to Philweb, sought an exemption from the PSE's additional listing rule, citing its situation as a moribund company and arguing that a rights offering was impossible since no underwriter would be willing to assume the risks.

The SEC said it found Itogon-Suyoc's request for an exemption "reasonable," noting that about 91 percent of the company's stockholders had already approved the deal with Philweb and waived their preemptive rights to a stock rights offering.

"Conversely, we find the exchange to have exceeded its discretion and gone overboard in the application of the rule by denying Itogon-Suyoc this exemption. The commission, therefore, must correct the same under its supervisory powers over the exchange as well as its oversight functions," it said.

Despite a previous order from the SEC, the stock exchange still refused to list the new shares sold to Philweb at a price discount of more than 10 percent against the average market price.

Itogon-Suyoc took in Philweb as a strategic investor to help it migrate into the more viable technology business.

Failing to get the PSE's approval, the company appealed for intervention from the SEC.

GOLFERS
CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF AUG. 26, 2002

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,600,000	1,500,000
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,700,000	1,600,000
3 BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	680,000
4 CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	80,000	
5 CAMP JOHN HAY	280,000	250,000
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	600,000	550,000
7 CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	120,000	110,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	180,000	170,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	400,000	380,000
10 CLUB FILIPINO	100,000	
11 EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	350,000	
13 EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14 FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
15 FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. LUISITA GOLF CLUB	400,000	
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	270,000	250,000
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	280,000	260,000
20 MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND)		10,500,000
21 MANILA GOLF CLUB (CORP)	13,000,000	
22 MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000	2,700,000
23 MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	650,000	600,000
24 MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	720,000	700,000
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	110,000	
26 METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
27 MT MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND)	350,000	
28 ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A""B""C"	Please call	Please call
29 QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	220,000	200,000
30 RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
31 RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	210,000	
32 RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	350,000	320,000
33 STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,800,000	1,600,000
34 SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	250,000	
35. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB	850,000	800,000
36 TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	800,000	750,000
37 VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	170,000	160,000
38 VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	300,000	260,000
39 WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	6,600,000	

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Cash-hungry Singaporeans sell shares

SINGAPORE—More than half the Singaporeans who received special government shares as part of a five-year relief package cashed in part of their allotment within the first nine months because they were desperate for money, according to reports Monday.

Although Singapore is often described as Southeast Asia's affluent state, many people say they are forced to off-load shares because all other sources of cash to pay bills and support other family members have dried up.

"What else can I do? I need the money," says unemployed Jeffrey Ang, 57, who is struggling to put his 24-year-old son through tertiary education.

He told the Straits Times newspaper the S$700 (US$400) he received from his shares was "a mere drop in the ocean of bills."

With the city-state severely hit by an economic downturn, more than 1.2 million people have so far sold the so-called New Singapore Shares, drawing S$[illegible] million from government coffers.

Under a novel economic stimulus scheme introduced last November, Singaporeans received between 200 and 1,700 cash-convertible shares, with lower income earners receiving the higher number of shares.

They can sell up to half their shares in the first 12 months before restrictions are lifted.

About 70 percent of the allowable first-year limit has been sold, a figure that surprised Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong.

"I thought Singaporeans can be a bit more, well, calculative in terms of what they can earn by holding on to the shares," he told reporters.

The shares, insulated from market fluctuations and their dividends exempt from tax, will earn a guaranteed minimum 3 percent a year on top of bonus dividends depending on gross domestic product.

On maturity in 2007, the government will redeem outstanding shares at S$1 each.

But 42-year-old Michael Chia said he could not wait until then. ***AFP***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, August 26, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	17.75	17.5	17.75	55,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	42.5	42	42	48,700
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	200
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	3,200
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	73,500
Global Business Bank Inc.	66	67	66	67	29,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33.5	34.5	33.5	34.5	97,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18.25	17.75	18.25	144,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1190	1190	1190	1190	3,080
Sun Life Financial Serv.	925	925	925	925	250
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	9,500
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.54	930,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	1,100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2,000
Piltel	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,740,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	285	292.5	285	290	35,980
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	10,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.5	7,400
Manila Electric Co. B	28	28.5	28	28.5	117,500
Petron Corp.	1.62	1.66	1.62	1.66	135,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	110,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.6	0.6	550,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	254,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	200,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	43,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.22	2.3	2.22	2.3	61,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.5	60,700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	1,200
San Miguel Corp. A	48.5	48.5	48.5	48.5	19,500
San Miguel Corp. B	51	52	51	51.5	18,000
Universal Robina Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	1,967,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg. A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Ayala Corp.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	42,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.28	2.28	2.26	2.26	231,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.22	3,350,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12	12	12	12	252,700
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	600,000
Ionics Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	2,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	25,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	360,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.24	1,070,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	5,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	60,000
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	190,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21.5	21.5	21.5	21.5	151,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series J	10	10	10	10	5,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series K	10	10	10	10	6,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series N	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10	10	10	10	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10	10	10	10	4,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	513,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	300,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.14	0.145	0.12	0.12	4,450,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	380,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	1,133,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.76	1.84	1.66	1.84	741,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.16	80,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	200,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	2,604,000
MINING					
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	200,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	3,300,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	20,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	80,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	457,130	17,001,950.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	24,949,580	36,122,165.00
PRO	10,431,000	20,962,120.00
Mining	200,000	62,000.00
OIL	23,380,000	101,100.00
GRAND TOTALS:	59,417,710	74,249,335.00
	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	429.16	UP 5.64
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,504.36	UP 3.92
PRO	510.67	UP 0.27
Mining	1,125.93	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.35	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	632.70	DOWN 0.42
Composite	1,092.86	UP 5.60

NO. OF ADVANCES: 22; NO. OF DECLINES: 12; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 40; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 74; NO. OF TRADES: 709

Camacho. . .

From page B1

structuring of distressed local companies.

"We are not threatened with the news of Cerberus' investment in Thailand. We just have to prove that we are an ideal investment destination. This is a continuing effort," the finance secretary said.

A SPAV, also known as an asset management company, is a group that would buy a company's bad assets and loans at huge discounts and normally has the expertise in turning around and selling these at a better price or collecting the loans at a higher rate.

The legislation on SPAV had not been moving as fast as the government and the private sector had anticipated.

The main incentives given to SPAVs would be an exemption from documentary stamp and capital gains taxes that are being applied every time an asset is sold.

A net operating loss carryover, an incentive to allow banks to carry over huge losses in the succeeding years for tax deduction purposes, is also proposed.

Banks are also pushing for a provision that would allow them to own at least 30 percent of a SPAV so they would have a share of the earnings from the disposal of the assets and collection of the loans.

As of June, the non-performing loans of commercial banks stood at 18.06 percent.

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED members of the board of trustees of **Far Eastern University** were Lourdes Montinola, Edilberto de Jesus, Aurelio Montinola III, Angelina Jose, Paulino Tan, Gianna Montinola, Lydia Echauz and Elizabeth Melchor. Wilfrido Tecson was appointed independent trustee.

• • •

SAN Miguel Corp. has denied it is in any talks to acquire a stake in Singapore-based Fraser and Neave Ltd.

• • •

METRO Pacific Corp. has clarified that its talks with the **Bases Conversion Development Authority** to settle its P1-billion debt neither involved offering its shares in **Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.** nor returning some 150 hectares of property to BCDA.

• • •

THE **PHILIPPINE National Construction Corp.** has reported a net loss of P282.9 million in the first half of the year.

• • •

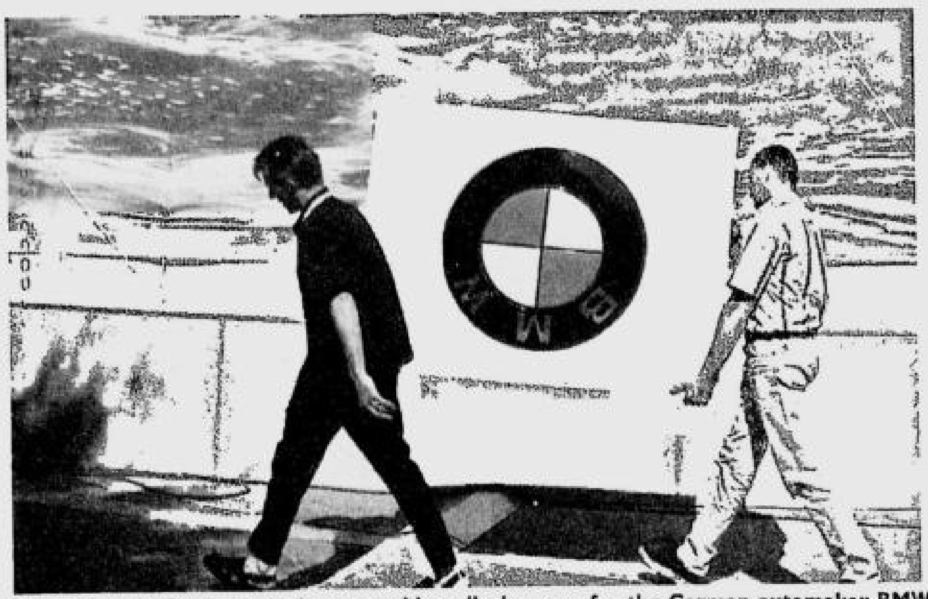
ELECTED directors of **Sinophil Corp.** were Alfredo Benitez, Rogelio Cabunag, Manuel Gana, Antonio Henson, Ricardo Leong, Willy Ocier, Caesar Poblador, Hans Sy, A. Bayani Tan, Edmundo Tan and Jerry Tiu.

• • •

ELECTED directors of **Belle Corp.** were Ramon Ang, Fulgencio Factoran, Antonio Henson, Jacinto Ng Jr., Hans Sy, Cesar Virata, Rogelio Cabunag, Benito Tan Guat, Luis Lorenzo Jr., Willy Ocier and Washington Sycip.

• • •

ELECTED directors of **APC Group Inc.** were Willy Ocier, Evelyn Singson, Washington Sycip, Peter Favila, Hans Sy, Jerry Tiu, Vicente Jayme Jr., Jose Mari Lagdameo, Rogelio Cabunag, Antonio Henson, Manuel Gana, Bernardo Lim and Edmundo Tan. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***



WORKERS carry a logo as they assemble a display area for the German automaker BMW near the Sandton Convention Center as the build-up continues for the UN's World Summit on Sustainable Development In Johannesburg, Aug. 25, 2002. Many environmental activists are worried by the possible influence on the summit of big business, which they claim have caused many of the global problems the conference is aimed at solving. AP

US SEC to tackle details of corporate governance

WASHINGTON—Corporate governance and accounting reform in America will be on the front burner on Tuesday, as new faces at the Securities and Exchange Commission and Chair Harvey Pitt begin implementing the landmark Sarbanes-Oxley Act to clean up big business.

The most far-reaching remake of US securities laws since the 1930s, the legislation calls for many changes during the next year, including regular certification by top corporate officers of financial results and faster disclosure of corporate insider trading.

Both these sections of Sarbanes-Oxley will be considered on Tuesday at the SEC's first public meeting with three new members: Harvey Goldschmid, Paul Atkins and Roel Campos.

As a series of corporate scandals ranging from Enron Corp. to WorldCom Inc. shook US markets over the last 12 months, Pitt, a former elite Wall Street lawyer, spent most of his first year in office coping virtually alone with the crisis.

After winning praise for helping restore the stock markets after the Sept. 11 attacks, Pitt took heavy fire for his handling of relations with past clients, leading some lawmakers from both sides of the aisle in Congress to call for his resignation.

The new commissioners will give Pitt needed political cover, lawyers said, and help share the load as the SEC hammers out the details of reforms drafted by Democratic Maryland Sen. Paul Sarbanes and Republican Ohio Rep. Michael Oxley, and signed into law by President Bush on July 30.

"It's been a long time since there's been a full commission and since there's been one with such a range of experience and viewpoints," said Gregory Bruch, partner at the law firm of Foley & Lardner in Washington and a former top SEC lawyer.

"It's clearly a much stronger agency when you have a full complement of five commissioners, who are a mix of Democrats and Republicans. It makes the SEC much less susceptible to being accused of engaging in partisan politics."

Reuters

AT&T receives subpoena related to NY probe

ALBANY, New York—State investigators are looking into whether a top analyst for Citigroup Inc. upgraded his rating of AT&T's stock to help land the bank a role advising on a $10.6-billion deal for the telecommunication giant, a source familiar with the matter said.

AT&T spokesperson Eileen Connolly confirmed Friday that the company received a subpoena from state Atty. Gen. Eliot Spitzer's office, but declined to elaborate.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the subpoena focuses on whether telecommunications analyst Jack Grubman changed his rating on AT&T to help Citigroup's Salomon Smith Barney investment banking division win the role underwriting AT&T's April 2000 deal to help set up an AT&T tracking stock to finance the company's wireless division.

Grubman, an influential Wall Street stock analyst who touted shares of troubled companies like WorldCom and Global Crossing, resigned earlier this month amid mounting conflict-of-interest allegations.

Spitzer spokesperson Darren Dopp said an investigation is under way, but he declined further comment. Securities regulators are also looking into allegations against Grubman.

The Wall Street Journal reported Friday that Spitzer is also investigating what role Citigroup chief executive Sanford Weill may have played. The Journal cited unidentified people familiar with the matter.

Salomon Smith Barney was selected as a lead underwriter for the deal after Grubman upgraded his rating on AT&T shares to "buy," the Journal said. Grubman had been bearish on AT&T stock for years.

The Journal previously reported that Weill, an AT&T board member, encouraged Grubman to give AT&T a fresh hearing before Salomon landed the underwriting role.

Salomon spokesperson Susan Thomson denied that Weill pressured Grubman to change his AT&T stock rating. *AP*

Indonesia raised $2.5B by selling bad loans

JAKARTA—Indonesia has raised more than $2.5 billion from the sale of bad loans that it took over following the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis, a newspaper reported Saturday.

The loan sales move Indonesia's Bank Restructuring Agency a step closer to meeting its target this year of raising 42 trillion rupiahs ($4.7 billion) from asset and loan sales. Indonesia's budget, already running a deficit equivalent to 2.5 percent of its gross domestic product this year, is counting on this money.

Syafruddin Temenggung, head of the Bank Restructuring Agency, was quoted in The Jakarta Post as saying that 70 percent of the buyers were local banks, asset management firms and securities companies. The remaining investors were foreign, though none from internationally known investment firms, he said.

Temenggung said the loans were sold at about a third of their original value.

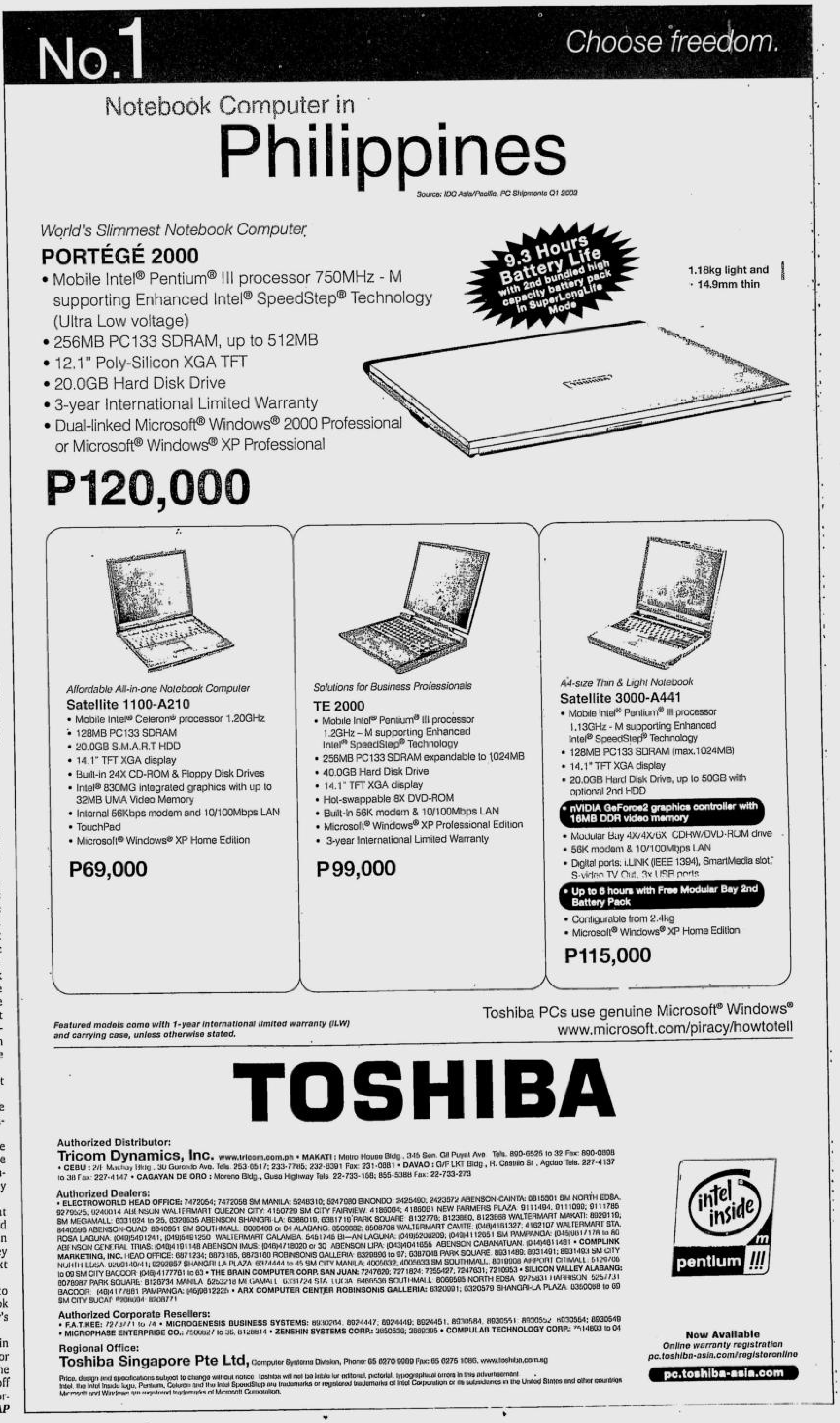
Analysts suspect many of the buyers are acting on behalf of the original debtors themselves.

The Jakarta Post said the agency has come under fire for potential irregularities in the sale, including the sale of one loan to a consortium that included a relative of the agency deputy chair.

State Minister of National Development Planning Kwick Kian Gie has repeatedly called on the government to investigate the loan sale, and Parliament members have said they plan to hold a hearing on the matter next month.

„Indonesia set up the agency in 1998 to manage assets and loans the government took over following the collapse of the country's banking system.

The agency took over some $33 billion in bad loans, becoming the largest single creditor in the country. Along with the loan sales, the agency has also been charged with selling off state-owned assets, including the sale of majority stakes in some state-owned banks. *AP*



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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

CCP hosts Cusa 8th season

THE CENTRAL Colleges of the Philippines (CCP) will be hosting the 8th Season of the Colleges and Universities Sports Association (Cusa). The event will kick off with a grand opening ceremony to be held at the Araneta Coliseum Aug. 29.

This year's event theme titled "Cusa Youth Sports 2002: Build and Beyond" will focus on building the sportsmanship spirit of fair play and competitiveness among the youth. It aims to broaden the interest and deepen the involvement of the students in athletic competitions.

Prominent broadcasters Anthony Suntay and Camilla Kim will emcee the ceremony with an expected 85,000 student participants from 13 member colleges, namely Central Colleges of the Philippines, Technological Institute of the Philippines, Philippine Maritime Institute, Las Piñas College, University of Assumption–Pampanga, De Ocampo Memorial College, Saint Jude College, Metro Manila Colleges, Philippine College of Criminology, Trinity College of Quezon City, De La Salle Gregorio Araneta University Foundation, Manuel L. Quezon University and Patts College of Aeronautics.

Cusa overall program chair Dr. Elena Reyes pointed out the significant role of Cusa in the continuous development of the youth's interest in sports as evidently shown in the number of its participants.

"The overwhelming participation of these students merely reaffirms that Cusa has done a great job through the years in fulfilling sports development and camaraderie among the youth," she said.

In fulfillment of the event's theme, Cusa takes a step further as it resurrects the exciting sport of success this season.

"We can't just mull over the excitement of the recent World Cup. More and more kids are beginning to understand and appreciate the game of football. We must help them prepare and train," commented lawyer Crispino P. Reyes, CCP president and Cusa board member.

Student participants will still enjoy other regular sports events such as basketball, volleyball, chess, swimming, badminton and table tennis.

As this season's host, CCP has always aspired to uplift the spirits of the young and open up their minds both in academic and in sports endeavors.

"The CCP management is decisive in the pursuit for support within the organization because their goal is very visibly like ours – to serve the youth, cultivate their talent and lead them to success," said professor Nel P. Buenaventura, event organizer and chair of the opening ceremonies.

Other companies that are initially sponsoring the ceremony are Tretorn, Alaska, Starbucks, 8 Waves Waterpark, and Mikasa.

EACIT TIES UP WITH CIM TECHNOLOGIES

East Asia College of Information Technology (an educational partnership of SM Foundation, IBM Philippines, Far Eastern University and Intelligent Wave of Japan) recently signed in a Training Affiliate Program with the CIM Training Center of CIM Technologies Inc., the leader in providing Computer Aided Design (CAD) training for industry professionals and students since 1989. Shown at the contract signing are (from left) Joseph Adao, director, Coeus IT training center, Dr. Manuel A. Lopez, dean, East Asia College of Information Technology, Maverick Evangelista, assistant VP, CIM Technologies Inc. and Grace Cassandra Ty, business development officer, CIM Training Center. CAD training will be held at the Coeus IT Training Center, a professional training center of East Asia College of Information Technology located at the Technology Hall, FEU campus, Nicanor Reyes Street, Sampaloc, Manila. For inquiries, call 736-0015 to 19, or fax 736-0023.

BITS & Clips

AAA launches Alumni awards

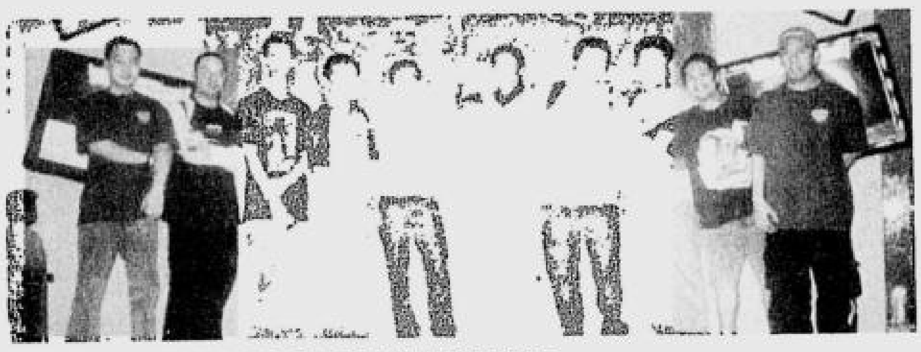
THE ATENEO de Davao Alumni Association (AAA) will formally launch the grand event of recognizing and honoring an outstanding alumnus for this year. The "Distinguished Alumni Award" is the highest honor that the University bestows upon an outstanding alumnus. The launch is slated at the Marco Polo Hotel on the morning of Aug. 28. Key leaders of Davao have been invited to help launch this affair. They will be joined by the university's top officials led by Fr. Edmundo Martinez SJ, Ateneo de Davao president, Dr. Perla Funa, vice president for basic education, professor Nilda J. Ginete, dean of the art and sciences and Isagani Lacson, MBA, dean of the school of business and governance, and Gloria G. Dolar, high school principal. Ateneo High School '77 spearheads the launch. For more information on the awards, call Melfa Tizon at the Ateneo Alumni Affairs Office at E. Jacinto Street, Davao City at (6382)221-2411 local 8227 or e-mail alumni@addu.edu.ph.

Coffee Table book on Laguna de Bay

UNILEVER'S global chair Antony Burgmans officially launches the first coffee table book on Laguna de Bay during his two-day visit in Manila. Titled "Laguna de Bay: The Living Lake", author Reynaldo Gamboa Alejandro, was one of the authors of "Pasig: River of Life" launched in 2000. Published by Unilever Philippines, "Laguna de Bay: The Living Lake" reflects the company's environmental commitment, particularly on clean water stewardship. The company has been a resident of Paco since 1927 and has been operating beside the Pasig River for 75 years. From its experience with the Pasig River, the company's environment platform expanded to the La Mesa Watershed, and to Laguna de Bay, and helped the lake become the 18th member of the global Living Lakes Network. Burgmans is the signatory of the company's water care initiative, and will be part of the CEO panel in the World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan in 2003.

DMC concept store celebrates 3rd year

DMC Creative World Store, the first DMC concept store in Asia, celebrates its third year this month. A three-week sale until Aug. 30 has been ongoing as part of its anniversary treat. The store offers a variety of international DMC cross-stitch designs such as Filipiniana, Singaporean, Malaysian, Eurpean, and American. The Asian designs are specially developed at the DMC Design Studio. Check out the new European designs on printed canvass. Other designs of crafts such as hardanger, tatting, crochet, glass painting, painting-by-numbers and metal craft are also available. Cross-stitch lessons for beginners and advanced students are also offered. Another item is the Stitch-A-Photo scanning service, which, for P395, your favorite picture is scanned an converted into a cross-stitch pattern. DMC Creative World is located at SM Megamall Building A. For more information, call 632-9978.



HARRY POTTER CARD GAME WINNERS

Winners of the Harry Potter Trading Card Game (TCG) tournament for July held at Shangri-La Plaza Mall received their prizes consisting of Harry Potter TCG Adventures at Hogwarts booster packs. The top four tournament players will join the top four winners of the monthly tournaments from August to November in automatically qualifying for the Harry Potter Top Wizards Showdown on Dec. 29 at the MegaTrade Hall 3 of SM Megamall. Shown, from left, are Del J. Bohol of Ban Kee Trading Inc., King Mahino (2nd place), Marvin Lava (3rd), Alvin Abing (4th), Tantan Relenas (champion), Jay Ocampo (5th), Philip Chia (6th), Jonathan Fabre (7th), Allan Landayan (8th) and Brian Dale Garcia of Ban Kee Trading Inc., exclusive distributor of Harry Potter TCG.

'WITTY, WILD, WACKY GARFIELD.COM'

Nobody can claim such worldwide popularity other than Garfield. Who couldn't be familiar with this witty, wild and wacky character that makes him the most lovable cat who ever existed? Come celebrate Garfield Mania in a grand launch on Sept. 15 at SM Southmall. Meet Garfield in person and get lots of free goodies courtesy of Fruitella, Kimy Ice Cream, KFC, Oreo, Pillsbury Muffin, Pop Secret popcorn and Shakey's. Kids will definitely enjoy various kiddie contests as part of the show, giving them a chance to win special Garfield items. The succeeding legs of the Garfield launch are on Sept. 22 at SM North Edsa and Sept. 28 at SM Megamall Garfield is exclusively distributed by Richwell Trading Corp. Call 740-4673 and ask for Letty Defeo for more details

Obesity management controversies tackled by Pasoo Sept. 13

THE 8TH Annual Convention of the Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight and Obesity (Pasoo) focuses on "The Controversies in Obesity Management" on Sept. 13 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua will be the keynote speaker on "Learning from the Past and Planning for the future".

Convention chair Celeste Tanchoco and members of the Pasoo Board have lined up interesting topics, to include "The Role of Dietary Supplement in the Management of Obesity: from Research to Application," "The Psychology of Obesity, Weight Loss and Weight Gain: Research and Clinical Findings," "Cultural Issues in Obesity Management: Communication and Counseling".

One of the highlights of the Pasoo convention will be the launching of the "Pasoo Whiz Kids for Fitness", a decisive contribution in addressing the alarming growth of juvenile obesity in the country. It will be a joint project of the grade school department of St. Scholastica's College headed by Florina Castillo and Adelaida Vargas.

In the morning of Sept. 8, the public is invited to join the "Walk While You Can" at the Fort Bonifacio grounds. Registration starts at 5:30 a.m., walk proper at 6 a.m. and Holy Mass at 8 a.m. with program and breakfast to follow. Lots of surprises are in store for the participants. Sanirose S. Orbeta and Joey Sy of Roche Philippines is in charge of this fitness event.

Interested parties can call 531-1278 for early registration for the convention and other details.

MAGIC
MICROPHONE

MIC DISTRIBUTORS OPEN MANILA BRANCH

In-A-Jiffy Enterprises, authorized distributor of Magic Sing Videoke Micropohone, recently opened its third sales office at the seventh floor of Marc 2000 Tower, Taft Avenue corner San Andres Street, Malate, Manila. Present during the event are, from left, Nepthali Llamo, technical manager, Cris Llamo, operations manager, Olive Sanchez, sales and marketing manager and Mike Sanchez, business development manager. Magic Sing Videoke Microphone is available in selected music stores and all In-A-Jiffy branches nationwide.

PLANTERSBANK AT FOOD EXPO

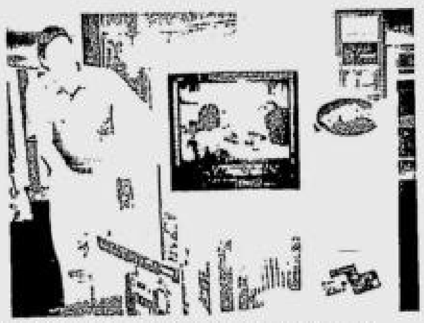
Planters Development Bank (Plantersbank), the country's largest private development bank in the country, recently shared effective business strategies to aspiring and practicing entrepreneurs at the World's Food & Trade Expo 2002 at the World Trade Center, Pasay City. Shown is Agnes Angeles, senior vice president of Plantersbank, with Randy Manaloto, finance vice president of Premier Events Plus Group, organizers of the expo. Angeles was the resource speaker for the event's seminar module titled 'How to Finance Your Business: Show me the Money!' The World's Food & Trade Expo 2002 is a major international event showcasing the world's best food and beverage products. Plantersbank is the leading development bank of small and medium enterprises

Product FILES

BPI unveils Express Advice exhibit

IN CELEBRATION of its 151st anniversary, the Bank of the Philippine Islands recently unveiled the Customer-Centric Banking Exhibit at its head office lobby in Makati.

The exhibit highlights BPI's Express Advice booths with the bank's various products and services. The Express Advice Showcase includes Express Teller's Express Payment System (EPS), BPI Card's Special Installment Plan (SIP), BPI Express Cash, Maxi-One, BPI Asset Management, Mobile Banking Service, BPI Family Bank's Happy Family Auto Loan, BPI/MS Express Auto Insurance, Petron-BPI MasterCard, BPI Express Online, BPI Express Phone, BPI E-Credit, BPI Trade, BPI Family Bank's Happy Family Housing Loan, Express First Home and Express Pabahay, BPI/MS Fire Insurance, Check-Free Payments, Express Remittance, and the new Express Deposit.



The Express Advice, with its "Banking Anytime, Anywhere at Your Convenience" message, comes with a corresponding signage that describes the facility and explains its consumer benefits.

3 new donut flavors

DUNKIN Donuts recently introduced three new flavors of Donut De Fruta, namely buko pandan, pomelo and ponkan. Consumers can save no less than P45 with every purchase of a dozen for P99. This promo offer is good until Aug. 31 at all participating outlets nationwide.

3 new flavors
DUNKIN DONUTS

HK stock exchange may invest in other markets

HONG KONG—The Hong Kong Stock Exchange might invest in exchanges or trading systems elsewhere, a newspaper reported Monday.

The South China Morning Post said the exchange would appoint a group of investment bankers to consider "investment or acquisition opportunities" with other exchanges or clearinghouses.

The English-language Post quoted executives close to Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing, which runs the local market, as saying it has HK$5.27 billion ($675.6 million) in a shareholder fund that could be put to better use.

The newspaper did not identify the executives by name.

The report did not mention any markets that Hong Kong's exchange might invest in, but said it appeared unlikely the Hong Kong exchange would try to buy another market outright.

No one was immediately available for comment at the Hong Kong market when The Associated Press rang early Monday.

The decision to look into investing the money elsewhere was made at an exchange board meeting last week, the Post said. *AP*

US SURVEY SHOWS

Stable hiring activity expected as companies remain cautious

MILWAUKEE—People looking for work in the United States won't see an increase in the number of job openings through the year's end as companies remain cautious about the economy's recovery, a new survey finds.

Twenty-four percent of the companies surveyed by Manpower Inc. expect to hire more people in the fourth quarter, and 9 percent plan to cut workers, according to Manpower's quarterly survey of 16,000 businesses.

The remainder said they either expect to maintain their staffing levels or were uncertain.

When seasonally adjusted, the fourth quarter's employment prospects remain about the same as in the third quarter, when 27 percent of the companies expected to add jobs and 8 percent planned cuts.

"For the balance of the year, job seekers are still going to be challenged," said Jeffrey Joerres, chair and chief executive officer of Manpower.

"There's still cautiousness within the companies," he said. "Given the economy continues to improve, albeit slowly, you'll see a bit of an acceleration after the pause."

Manpower, the nation's largest staffing company, has conducted the survey for 26 years.

The national unemployment rate for July remained stuck at 5.9 percent with just 6,000 new jobs created.

Employment levels will hold steady nationwide except on the West Coast, which expects a slight decrease in hiring from the third quarter largely because it is home to many struggling technology and telecommunications companies, Joerres said.

The finance, insurance and real estate sector is the only one surveyed that anticipates improved hiring over last quarter and a year ago, Manpower reported.

Manufacturers, hit hard by the recession, expect to maintain a consistent hiring level, which is a significant improvement over a year ago, Joerres said.

The Midwest leads in the recovery of manufacturing jobs while the South expects higher demand for workers in services, the survey found.

The Sept. 11 attacks and the accounting scandals have affected different sectors at different times and are keeping companies cautious, said Kris Thompson, president of the National Human Resources Association.

"There's a lot more uncertainty existing right now than at this time last year," he said. "Thank goodness the economy is holding on, because things could be a lot worse in light of what's happened." *AP*

Prosecutors building case in Enron investigation

WASHINGTON—The plea agreement with a key Enron Corp. official gives prosecutors an insider who promises to help them unravel the role the company's former financial officer may have played in its collapse.

Experts believe building any criminal case against other top executives—including former chief executive Jeffrey K. Skilling and former chair Kenneth Lay—will be immensely more difficult for the Justice Department.

These executives personally attested to Enron financial documents that contained serious accounting errors, which could represent securities violations, experts said. But experts said it will be difficult, even impossible, to implicate Skilling or Lay in the types of wire fraud or money laundering crimes that Michael J. Kopper admitted to last week.

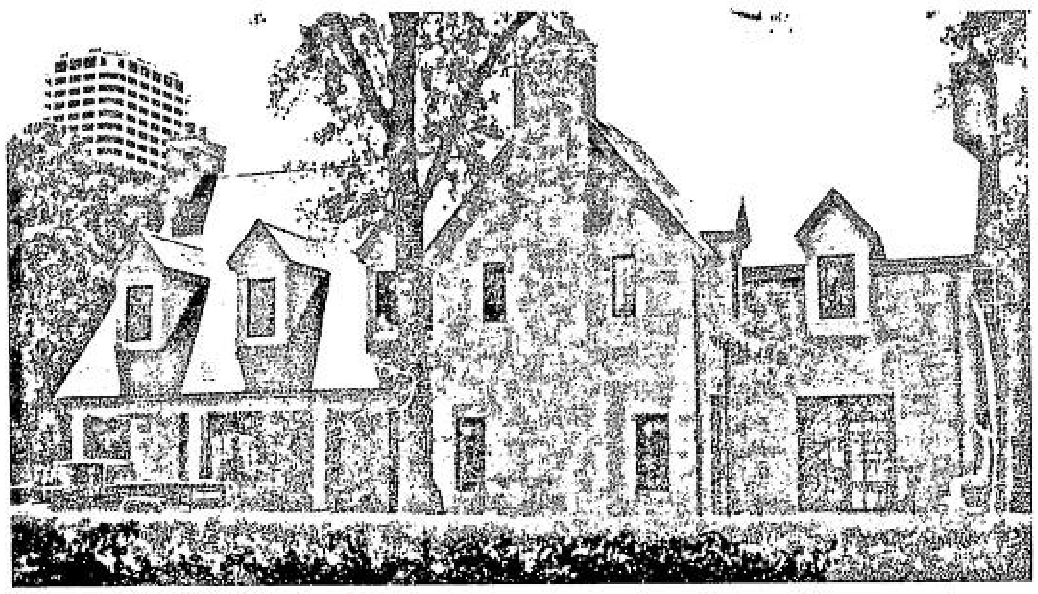
Enron's internal investigation found that Skilling was "almost entirely uninvolved in the (oversight) process, notwithstanding representations made to the board that he had undertaken a significant role." Others said Lay was even more well known for his hands-off approach to the day-to-day operations at Enron.

When Skilling testified this year at congressional oversight hearings, he said: "I was not aware of any inappropriate financing arrangements designed to conceal liabilities or overstate earnings."

Kopper, once a trusted aide to chief financial officer Andrew S. Fastow, was at the crux of at least three partnerships—known as Radar, Chewco and Southampton—that conducted complicated business deals with the company.

The partnerships were portrayed to investors and federal regulators as outside entities but secretly had too-close ties to Enron. Prosecutors in court papers tied Kopper's roles in those deals closely to Fastow and said Kopper distributed profits to Fastow, Fastow's wife and other family members. Fastow named another controversial partnership at Enron after his wife and two young children.

"This applies enormous pressure," said Robert A. Mintz, a former federal prosecutor. "The plea by Kopper will no doubt hasten the government's ability to move more quickly against Fastow and possibly against Lay and Skilling." *AP*



IN RIVER Oaks, Houston's wealthiest neighborhood, workmen continue to finish construction on former Enron CFO Andrew Fastow's new five-bedroom stone house worth more than $2 million. In the background is the exclusive high-rise where former Enron chair Kenneth Lay lives on the 33rd floor in a $7.1-million penthouse. The primary motive for creating Enron's complex web of partnerships was thought to be to hide the company's debt, keep salaries high and make its stock ever more valuable. But new revelations by investigators and insider Michael Kopper indicate that whole deals may have been structured more to let executives skim money than to dress up Enron's books.

AP

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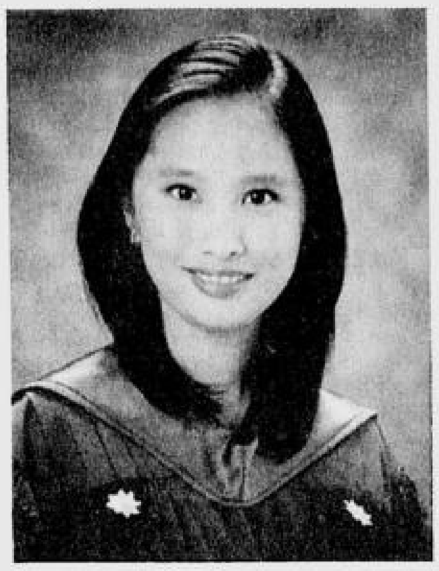

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"Dearest Papa, we will miss you very deeply, but the memories of your love and goodness will remain in our hearts and guide us the rest of our lives."

ATTY. MELENCIO "Miling" M. CASTELO

Former Quezon City Councilor, City Secretary and Community Relations Officer, Quezon City

passed away peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on August 25, 2002 at the age of 78.

A caring husband to retired Q.C. Fiscal **Lea T. Castelo**,

A devoted son to **Judge Ignacio** (†) and **Lazara Castelo**

A beloved father to **Pinky** and **Bernie Cupino**, Congresswoman **Nanette Castelo-Daza, Melencio "Bobby"** and **Mary Grace Castelo**, and **Winston** and **Precious Castelo**,

A thoughtful brother to **Baby C. Pascual** and **Melba C. Catacutan**.

A doting grandpa to **Ma. Joanna C. Daza, Jessica C. Daza, Karl Edgar C. Cupino, Karina Mutya C. Cupino, Junie Marie Castelo, Sean R. Castelo, Simon R. Castelo, Sophia R. Castelo, Winona H. Castelo** and **Paulo H. Castelo**.

We request our relatives, friends and people whose lives have been touched by him to say a prayer.

His remains lie in state at the Mt. Carmel Shrine, New Manila, Quezon City, and will be transferred at 1:00 p.m. to the Albert Hall in the Quezon City Hall on August 28, 2002 for a Mass and Ecumenical Prayer and Necrological Service at 5 pm.

Interment will be on Thursday, August 29, 2002 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after a 9 am Mass at the Albert Hall, Quezon City Hall.

Our Dear

CARLOS P. CORPUS

was reborn to everlasting life with God
on his 57th Birthday
August 25, 2002

His wife **Raquel**; and children **Ivy** and **Don**; parents **Agapito** (†) and **Iluminada**; sisters and brothers **Leticia** and **Enrique Syquia, Florecita** (†) and **Benedicto Ledesma, Caesar** and **Joy Corpus, Hector** and **Doris Corpus**, and **Marius** and **Elizabeth Corpus**, and relatives and friends request the reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His earthly remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City on Saturday, August 31, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

I am the Truth, the Way and the Life

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered at the following Churches:

1.	Santuario de San Antonio Parish Forbes Park, Makati	-	12:15 Noon & 6:00 p.m. Aug. 27 - Sept. 4, 2002
2.	Our Lady of Pentecost Parish Quezon City	-	6:30 p.m. Aug. 27 - Sept. 4, 2002
3.	St. Joseph the Worker Parish Palanan, Makati	-	7:00 a.m. Aug. 27 - Sept. 4, 2002

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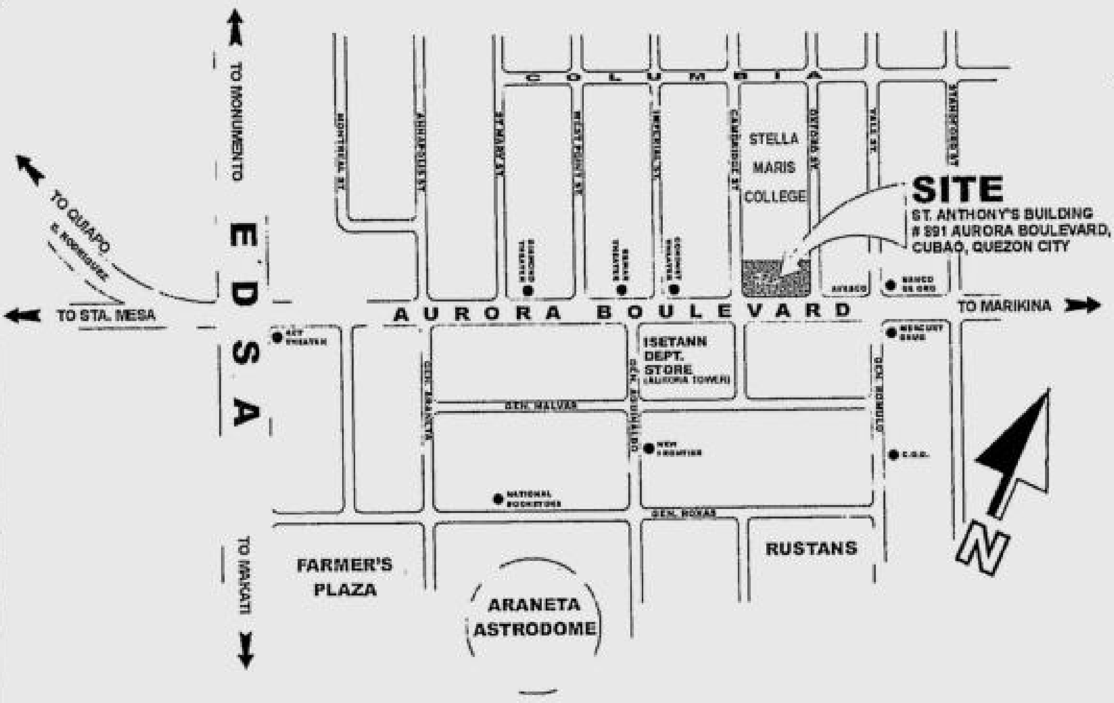

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(August 21, 1928 - August 24, 2002)

of Tuguegarao City

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 24, 2002 at the age of 74.

Her loving husband **Pedro Tan**; children **Dr. Napoleon & Dr. Caroline, Lourdes & Alfredo, Cesar & Nelly, Alberto & Sze Lai Yee, Ricardo & Pacita, Eduardo, Victor, Dr. Rosemarie & Jerry**; grandchildren **Candy, Nathaniel, Nicholas, Claudette, Lemuel, Louise, Marie, Neslie, Clark, Leslie, Arlene, Andrea, Reynolds, Raymond, Precious, Erwin, Jerome, Julian**; brothers, sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on September 1, 2002, 9:00 a.m. at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

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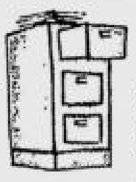

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INSURANCE COMMISSION
1071 United Nations Avenue
Manila

Head Office:
P.O. Box 3589 Manila
FAX No. 522-1434
Tel. Nos. 523-8461 to 70

NOTICE OF PRE-QUALIFICATION AND INVITATION TO BID

(Re-Bidding)

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Insurance Commission hereby invites bidders/suppliers to submit Pre-qualification documents (company profile) and sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

12 units	**Branded PC**
12 units	**Printer**

Bid documents are available at the Field Examination Division I at Telephone No. 523-8462 local 132 during office hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). Pre-Bid Conference is on **September 3, 2002** at 2:00 p.m., submission of Bid Proposal is on **September 10, 2002** up to 12:00 noon, opening of bids is on the same date at 2:00 p.m.

Interested bidders are required to enclose in their tender of bids the Bid Security of not less than 2.5% of the total amount of items to be bidded in the form of cash, cashier's or manager's check, and GSIS Surety Bonds.

The Insurance Commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids and/or parts thereof, waive any minor or defect therein, and accept the offer which is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **JULIA C. DUEÑAS**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO T. MALINIS**
Insurance Commissioner

(PDI - Aug 27 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
Asian Development Bank-Assisted
Philippine Regional Municipal Development Project
City of Puerto Princesa

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date:	19 August 2002.
ADB Loan No.	1367-PHI
MDF Subloan No.	03-96 (PHI)
Subproject No.	003 (PHI)

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank, herein referred to as the "Bank", in various currencies towards the cost of the Philippine Regional Municipal Development Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under contract(s) or the Supply and Delivery of various Sanitary Landfill equipment.
2. The City of Puerto Princesa, an Implementing Agency for the Project now invites sealed bids from the eligible bidders from member countries of the Bank for the supply and delivery of various Sanitary Landfill equipment as follows:

   Item No.1 One (1) unit Wheel Type Landfill Compactor with Dozer Blade
   Item No. 2 One (1) unit Dump Truck, 4x2, 15 tonner, 3-way tipper
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the office of

   THE CHAIRMAN
   Prequalification Bids and Awards Committee
   c/o PRMDP Project Action Unit, City Hall
   Sta. Monica, City of Puerto Princesa
4. A complete set of bidding documents can be acquired by any interested eligible bidder upon submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP3,000.00 per Contract Package. Bid Documents will be available on 19 August 2002 until 10 October 2002. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on 16 September 2002 at the above address.
5. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security or Bank Guarantee of Five Percent (5%) of the total Bid Price and must be delivered in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders on or before 17 October 2002 immediately after which bids will be publicly opened.
6. Bidders may submit bids for any or all of the items and quotations must be for any or all the equipment items and at full quantity/ies described under this contract package being bidded.
7. The City of Puerto Princesa reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality contained therein and accept offers most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ALEN ROSS B. RODRIGUEZ
PBAC Chairman (Representative of the City Mayor)

(PDI--Aug. 21, 25 & 27, 2002)

REALESTATE

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Decentralized trade areas good for tenants

By Tessa R. Salazar

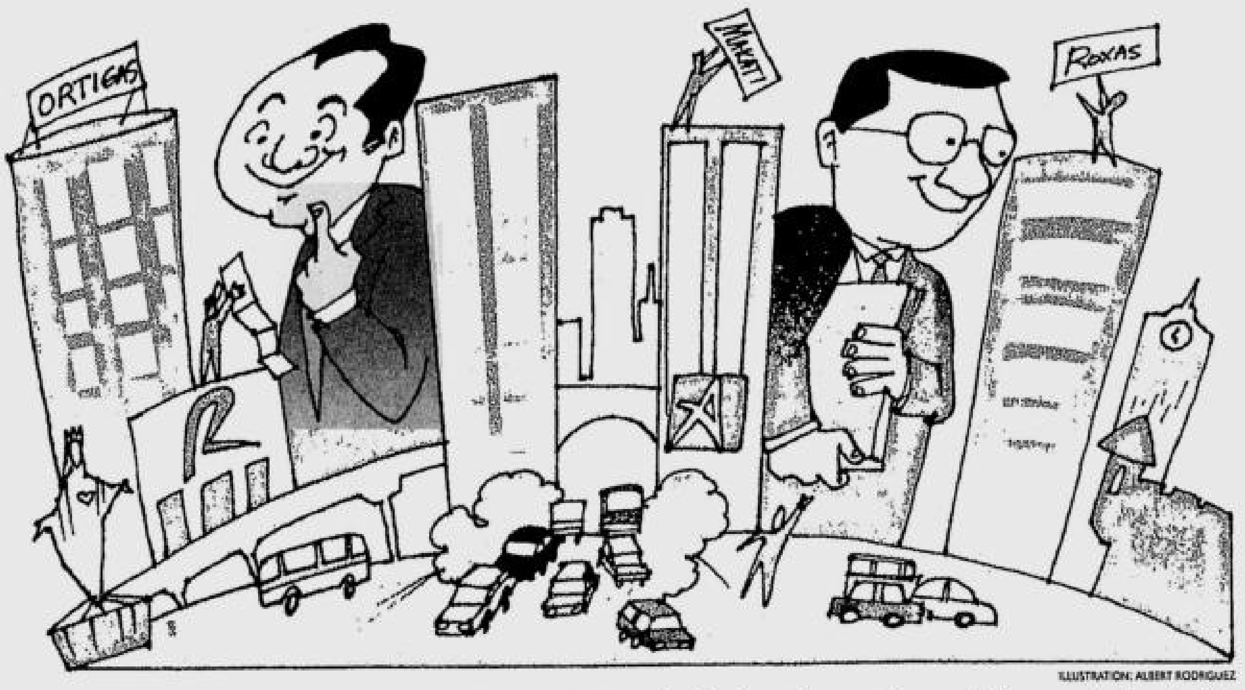


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

THERE was a time when Makati was the only option for office builders and tenants. Now corporations don't mind settling in another location to save time and finances. Technology has also made it possible for locators to decentralize.

The not-so-ideal infrastructure options in Metro Manila have led to the rise of decentralized business districts. The idea here is for employees not to work far from where they live. Filinvest Corporate City is the gateway to Calabarzon; Eastwood City is the gateway to Quezon City; Fort Bonifacio is the alternative central business district (CBD) to Makati; and Roxas Boulevard 2000 is set to reclaim the old glory of Manila—the original CBD of the Philippines.

Incentives for businesses

Decentralized business districts are principally incentives for businesses because these give more options for locations. The competition among CBDs would ultimately be beneficial for the tenant. The appreciation of rental prices would not be steep, now that alternative CBDs are cropping up. However, real property analysts surmise it would take a while before alternative CBDs achieve that critical mass needed to classify them as major CBDs.

Aside from the trend toward decentralized office locations, demands for office spaces have not been expanding. For Makati and Ortigas alone, vacant office spaces account for 27 percent, or 800,000 sq. m. of the more than 3 million sq. m. of office spaces.

The developers face a big problem. How will they prevent prices from falling?

Benedict Miranda, FPDSavills associate director for research, said he observed the market is restructuring office space rents from the high side and bringing the rates down to as much as 30 to 40 percent from what the tenants are paying.

"This means a 30- to 40-percent savings for the duration of the locators' lease," he said. Normally, the lease for office space is three years and three to five years for multinational companies.

Original leases cost P800,000 per sq. m. but the levels are being brought down to P500,000 per sq. m. or even less, added Miranda.

Not good for developers

"The market now is tenant-driven. It's not good for the developers because the returns will not be to their expectations. Everybody, I think, will stay away from the office sector for a while until the supply situation has normalized.

"The good thing now is there is office take-up (demand for office space). However, it's still not enough to take all the space up to the level of vacancy that's more or less bearable."

While it's the doldrums for developers, for corporations it should be a heyday. Attractive rental rates mean a lot of savings.

"Now is the time to renegotiate their contracts and lock them into lower costs. This translates into savings for them, which means a lot during these times," said Miranda.

The Philippines is not alone in the slowing down of tenancy activities, as the Asia-Pacific region experiences similar situations. What's driving it globally is the ripple effect of the US economy.

Having several CBDs is nothing unique in itself. Developed cities like Hong Kong and Singapore started their development with the opening up of CBDs.

"What's good about this is that it gives businesses more options to relocate. If they're cost-sensitive, decentralized locations are very attractive in terms of cost," said Miranda.

'Not my type'

Smaller units added to the market this year have not produced desirable results for developers.

Miranda analyzed that over the last few years, a majority of transactions were "Grade A" and deals were regularly concluded for large space requirements over 1,000 sq. m. The space dimensions being added by developers haven't exactly fit the space requirements of businesses.

The Makati CBD's development took about five decades before it reached its look and stature today. Ortigas, which Miranda described as resembling a football field before, was developed in the '80s when the Asian Development Bank and San Miguel Corp. set up their headquarters there.

ADB and San Miguel, thus, became magnets for other firms, especially for those who had business dealings with the two companies, to set up their offices in the area.

HOME FINANCING LOAN

How to improve your chances of owning your dream house

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WITH INTEREST rates on home loans down to very attractive levels, it is no wonder then that many Filipinos are enticed to make a beeline for the nearest bank branch and sign up for a housing loan.

After all, almost every Filipino dreams of having his own home.

But then it pays to take a few moments to determine if you are financially ready to take on a home loan. No matter how attractive the interest rates, the fact is that the housing loan would put a strain on monthly finances.

It also does not mean that the current low rates offered by the banks would not go up sometime in the future.

Planning your finances

Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., one of the country's biggest banks, offers a few pointers to help improve chances of owning that home.

When you have finally decided that you want to buy or build a house, the following should guide you in your planning:

- Develop a monthly budget, which will include household expenses, bills and other regular payables.
- Based on the monthly budget, make an annual budget, adding 15 percent on each item or to the total expenditure to allow for inflation.
- Compare the money you earn versus the money you spend so you can see how much extra money you have for the monthly amortization of the housing loan. Spare bonuses or commissions from computations. You can add them instead to your savings.
- See if you can pay off minor debts before you apply for a housing loan. The less debts you have, the easier it is for you to manage your finances and the better the chances of getting a home financing loan.
- It would be helpful to know your present cash position to help you decide on how you can finance your acquisition or construction. And if your finances would require you to get a loan, you may also want to start planning how you will finance the amount of equity you will have to shell out.
- Consult with the members of the household. Buying or constructing a house should be a family decision because it may mean cutting down on other expenses like entertainment to make way for the housing loan.

House purchase tips

If you are buying a house, Metrobank offers these suggestions:

- In selecting a house to buy, one should consider budget, location and lifestyle. Since it would be impossible to meet all requirements, aim to meet at least two considerations most important to you like budget and location.
- Buy only from a reputable real estate developer. If it is not a brand-new house, deal only with authorized or licensed real estate brokers, or better yet, the owner himself.
- Make sure the property is not overpriced by consulting the City Assessors' Office at the city hall. You can also check out the classified ads to get some idea of the price range.
- Verify with the Registry of Deeds if the original title is free from liens and encumbrances. Some properties have titles which are unacceptable for mortgage and may pose some problems in the future.

House building suggestions

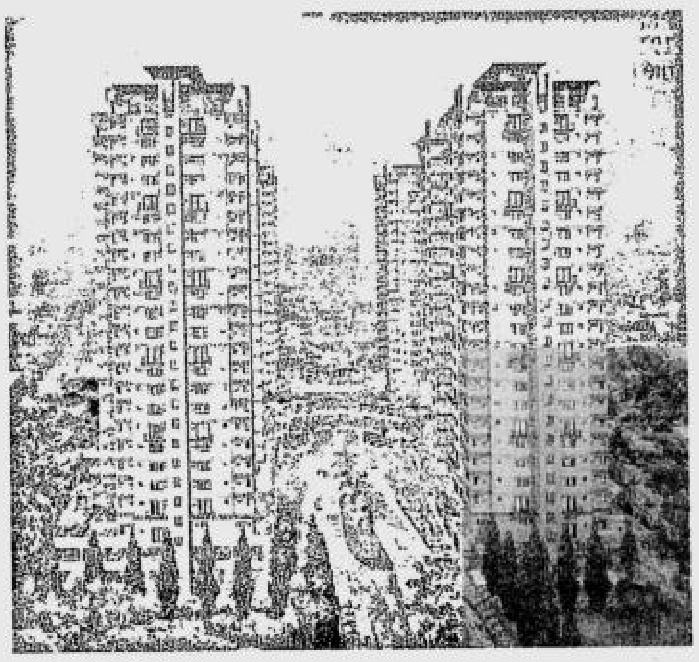
If you are constructing a house:

- Research in magazines and books.
- Work with experts your friends recommend based on their own experience.
- Finalize the design based on your budget.
- Be in charge. Ask questions, make suggestions and be involved. It is your house.
- Try to stick to your first choices. Once work is underway, changes should be kept to a minimum. Revisions entail additional cost and delays in the completion of the project.
- Keep in close contact with your contractor.
- Flexibility should be considered. Whether buying a house or constructing one, there should always be provisions for future expansion.

Once you decide to get a loan to help bankroll either the house construction or the purchase of a new house, it's time to scout the banks to determine which one offers the best deal.

Most major banks like Metrobank require a gross monthly family income of at least P40,000 to qualify for a housing loan.

Take the effort to compare the offers of the different banks because a housing loan is a long-term arrangement and it represents one of the biggest loans that a person would get in a lifetime.



FULLERTON Place

Now is the time to buy a condo unit

THE ATTRACTION to buy condominium units has steadily been growing the past few years. The difficulty of getting affordable and quality houses and lots within or near the metropolis' central business districts (CBDs) has prompted the buying market to look at alternative residential dwellings.

While a good number of people are willing to invest in houses in the southern or northern suburbs, others who are not as brave in tackling the ever-worsening vehicular traffic opt to invest in centrally located condominiums. These building residents are thus able to save considerable amount of money and sanity from the shortened travel time to and from their place of work and other everyday destinations.

Very low lending rates

The time has never been as favorable for buying condominium units as it is these days. In a bid to beef up loan portfolios, banks and financial institutions have been offering very low real estate lending rates. During the real estate cycle peak in the late '90s, lending rates went up to as high as 21 percent. With interest rates dipping to as low as 8.75 percent, borrowers pay P6,400 to P8,900 per month less for every million-peso loan.

Developers have likewise been more flexible with their in-house financing schemes, offering expanded terms and much lower interest rates. Moreover, condominium projects in the market are predominantly middle-cost developments with smaller-size units, such as studios and one-bedroom units. Take, for instance, the Fullerton Place, Robinsons Land Corp.'s newest condominium on Aurora Boulevard in Cubao, Quezon City, where unnecessary spaces are removed. Unit size ranges from 37 sq. m. for a studio to 43 sq. m. for a one-bedroom unit, resulting in efficiently configured homes for young professionals and small families.

Value for money

Combining product and financing, buyers are now able to enjoy the opportunity of owning a condominium unit by paying roughly the same amount of money one would pay for the rental of an apartment. Affordability, however, is not the only criteria the market looks for in condominiums. Size notwithstanding, discriminating consumers still expect value for money in terms of the unit layout (i.e. ease in arranging or positioning the furniture and decorating the home), the building features and amenities and, most importantly, security.

The Fullerton Place addresses these requirements. The simple and uninterrupted layout of the units maximize the living space, the features and amenities of the compound like the lap pool, kiddie pool, gym and playground, and function rooms offer above-average conveniences that residents will surely appreciate, and the 24-hour security system will put to rest other worries. With reputable realty firm Robinsons Land backing the development, the Fullerton Place is a cut above the rest of the condominiums in the area.

Altogether, condominium living is actually a very good option... and now is the time to buy that option.

Handyman opens 31st store, offers big discounts

HOME improvement center Handyman recently opened its newest branch at the Isetann Cinerama Complex on Recto Avenue in Manila. It is the chain's 31st branch in the country and its 12th store in Metro Manila.

As part of its grand opening, the new store is offering special items on sale for less than P100. These include Looney Tunes items, wrench sets, pliers, long nose and flashlights.

Apart from this special offer, the Recto branch is also taking part until Aug, 29 in Handyman's nationwide "Rainy Days Sale" where items are available at up to 20 percent discount. Among the items on sale are instant water heaters, water purifiers, air cleaning systems and submersible pumps.

"The opening of our Isetann Recto store is in line with our objective of delivering a wide array of home improvement merchandise at pocket-friendly prices," said Willy Co, Handyman president.

For his part, Isetann Recto mall manager Abner Aseron said that "with its unique concept of a convenient mall-based one-stop shop for hardware tools and supplies, the Handyman Home Improvement Center serves as a further testament that nothing beats shopping in downtown Manila. We extend our sincere welcome to the Robinsons Group."

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High court asked to reopen Maysilo scam case

QUOTING the Latin aphorism "He who overlooks a fault, invites the commission of another," government corporate counsel Amado D. Valdez appealed to the Supreme Court last week to reopen a 1992 decision that has plunged about half of the land areas of Caloocan City and Malabon and portions of Quezon City into turmoil and in danger of falling into the hands of "syndicated landgrabbers."

Valdez asked the high court to admit a motion to review and reopen the case, on behalf of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, one of the scores of aggrieved government and private land title holders.

450 hectares

Affected by the court's decision, aside from the privately titled lands, are some 450 hectares covered by 1,254 land titles of the national government. These comprise roads and national highways, including portions of the North Expressway and Edsa, the sites of the Bonifacio monument, public markets and public areas.

The court's decision had ruled that there are two original certificates of Title 994 covering the old Maysilo Estate, one dated May 3, 1917, and the other dated April 19, 1917.

Relied on were the certifications of top Caloocan City registry officials. The central files of the Land Registration Authority, which has supervision and control over the Caloocan registry of deeds, were not even checked by the MWSS counsel. At the time, an LRA verification committee had already found fraudulent titling transfers from original Maysilo Estate titles.

In the MWSS case, the court affirmed the title of one Jose B. Dimson. It was derived from an OCT 994 registered on April 19, 1917. The MWSS title originated from OCT 994 issued on May 3, 1917, or 15 days later. Applying the settled titling principle that a title earlier registered is superior to another title issued later, the court held that Dimson's title was valid and superior to the MWSS' two-decade-old title to its huge compound in Caloocan City.

Web of deceit

"Certain events have unfolded since the promulgation of that judgment which have brought to light how even the honorable Supreme Court was misled into the web of deceit spun by land titling syndicates," Valdez pointed out.

Three years after the court ruling, a Department of Justice fact-finding committee found that there is only one OCT 994 issued with reference to the Maysilo Estate and its date of issuance is May 3, 1917. The following year, the Senate committee on justice, and human rights and on urban planning, housing and resettlements which conducted their own investigation in aid of legislation of the Maysilo Estate irregularities, made the same findings as the DOJ fact-finding committee.

The investigation report of the two committees which were approved by the Senate, recommended that the DOJ findings be accorded the respect they deserve since it was the result of a joint undertaking of the DOJ proper, the Office of the Solicitor General and the Land Registration Authority, "the last two offices being directly mandated by law to protect the public interest in land title registration." The Senate committees asked that a copy of their report and that of the DOJ be transmitted to the Supreme Court. The LRA records clearly showed the existence of only one OCT 944 over the Maysilo Estate and it is dated May 3, 1017.

As an offshoot of the these findings, two Caloocan City registry officials were administratively charged, investigated and found guilty of grave misconduct and dishonesty. They issued "false and fraudulent certifications that OCT 994 was issued on April 19, 1917 when in truth and in fact, it was issued on May 3, 1917."

Mother of all... scams

The late Senate President Marcelo B. Fernan, who chaired the justice and human rights committee, described the Maysilo land titling mess as "the mother of all land titling scams" in the country.

Both the Senate and DOJ reports had urged the Office of the Solicitor General to file court suits to cancel titles issued by Caloocan City registry officials to Dimson, Lilia D. Sevilla, Estelito Hiolito, CLT Realty Development Corp., and Elueteria Rivera. Both reports found their titles to be "null and void for overlapping other titles covering the same land parcels which were legally and validly issued to other persons more than 40 to 70 years earlier."

Valdez said the DOJ and Senate investigation results "have thrown light to the true facts on OCT 994 and the circumstances surrounding the issuance of overlapping derivative transfer certificates of title covering the Maysilo Estate." Then he stressed, "These findings are the official acts of the executive and legislative branches of government and are therefore proper subjects of mandatory judicial notice without need for introduction of evidence under the rules of court."

Setting facts straight

Reopening the case, the official said, "will set the facts straight, allow truth to prevail and justice rendered accordingly." Unless the court's decision is reconsidered and set aside, "the fraud committed by unscrupulous landgrabbers in connivance with the likes of Vasquez (deputy registrar of deeds Norberto Vasquez Jr.) will continue to perpetuate itself as 'the mother of all land titling scams.'"

Valdez added, "Certainly, the integrity and stability of the Torrens system of land registration in this jurisdiction cannot be compromised."

As early as 1981, the LRA verification committee found that titles allegedly representing direct transfers from the Maysilo Estate OCT 994 had been issued through fraud and misrepresentation. The title holders had claimed buying the lands from the alleged children of one Bartolome Rivera. Rivera, along with eight other relatives, in turn claimed being heirs of a Spanish lady who owned a large portion of the original Maysilo Estate.

They claimed their titles were direct transfers from OCT 994, although the records showed that at the time of the transactions, the original lots and titles from OCT 994 had long been legitimately transferred to other persons or companies. Despite the LRA findings, particularly on how their claims overlapped earlier titles, several courts had granted the petitions of these claimants and ordered the registry of deeds to issue the titles.

Some claimants have succeeded in getting regional trial courts and the registrar's office to issue them titles supposedly derived from OCT 994 issued on April 19, 1917. Now they are using the Supreme Court decision in the MWSS case to oust hundreds of legitimate holders of titles derived from OCT 994 dated May 3, 1917.

> Fernan described the Maysilo land titling mess as the mother of all land titling scams

Leisure Farms: Reaping a harvest

LEISURE Farms, the first resort-type farm community in the country, offers a very refreshing combination of features and amenities. More than just farm lots, it is a hobby farming and agro-tourism community with a town center, bridle paths, a linear lake, campsite, swimming area and constantly growing demo farms, which have been attracting more and more people to its organic produce market. Appropriately located in the Metro Tagaytay area, Leisure Farms is the "the first real estate product in the natural product market" as Diane Malonzo, Leisure Farms' business development manager, would put it.

The more you examine this interesting product formula, the more it seems like the perfect idea. And you'd wonder why it came into existence only recently. It's a wonderful concept, like something we have been needing and wanting for so long, with an agricultural country like ours, with all these resources, and with everybody getting fed up with the horribly busy life in the city.

Innovating failed projects

"Well, there have been similar projects—mostly government-handled, so it's not hard to see why they weren't so successful. They were either too farm- or business-oriented, or did not consider lifestyle factors, or underestimated people's desires for a back-to-basics, more nature-filled living.

"Our success came from innovating on those failed projects," says Leisure Farms AVP and project director Alfred Xerez-Burgos III. "These innovations included adding a resort flavor to it; software, like farm management services; and an agritainment center." Being one of the few times such a project was taken on by a private sector, "it's in the right hands," says Malonzo.

Hobby farming

Xerez-Burgos developed the hobby farming idea for the project—the concept of the gentleman farmer who works during the week and goes off to enjoy his farm on weekends. Leisure Farms features "hassle-free farming" options, providing farm management services, professional care for the farm lots, so the resident farmers experience stress- and worry-free farming—one that is entirely for relaxation and enjoyment. The farm project was also in the ideal location—right in the Tagaytay area—to complete the concept of farming for pleasure.

Landco is harvesting the fruits of its labor and enabling others to "harvest the fullness of life."

Leisure Farms is a residential farming community located in Metro Tagaytay, with rolling terrain of virgin soil divided into 1,000-1,500-sq.-m. farm lots. Farmers will enjoy cool weather and a spectacular view of Mt. Batulao and Balayan Bay.

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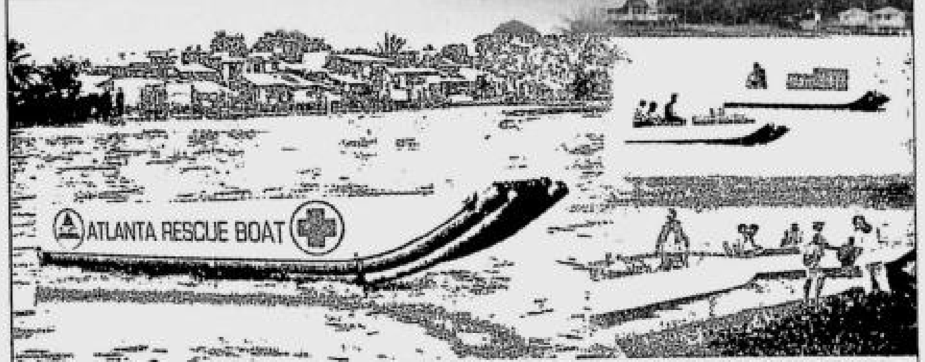

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New round of oil price hikes seen

By Abigail L. Ho

CONCEPCION

AFTER the increase in prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), consumers now have to brace for a fresh round of oil price hikes.

Consumer Oil Price Watch chair Raul Concepcion said in a news briefing yesterday that an increase of at least 30 centavos per liter could take place within the week as world crude prices continued to climb while the peso weakened against the dollar.

He cited the steady increase in the Mean of Platts Singapore index, the benchmark for prices of petroleum end-products, this month and the average peso performance in the same period.

The Platts averaged $24.22 a barrel during the Aug. 1-9 period with the peso at 51.55 to a dollar. The following week, the Platts went up to $24.53 and the peso dropped to P51.64. Last week, the index climbed further to $24.96 while the peso again slid down to P51.77.

According to a formula used by the Department of Energy, pump prices would go up by 13 centavos a liter with the $24.53 Platts weekly average and 30 centavos a liter with a $24.96 Platts rate.

But Concepcion said monitoring of the Platts, the foreign exchange rate and the Dubai crude index would still be done within this week to determine the exact magnitude of the increase.

"There may be an increase. We'll monitor the movements from Monday to Friday. We'll see if the peso will still strengthen. If the upward trend (of the Platts) reverses and the peso recovers, maybe the hike could be postponed for another week," he said.

Caltex (Philippines) Inc. had already sent feelers that an oil price increase could take place before the week is over.

"International prices have gone up rapidly and rather steeply over the past two weeks. Even the price of diesel in the international market has recently overtaken that of unleaded gasoline," a company statement said yesterday.

The statement noted that since the beginning of this year, prices of unleaded gasoline and diesel in the country had gone up at considerably slower rates that its neighboring countries.

"The cumulative price increase in Hong Kong alone is nearly double that of the Philippines," he said.

The statement also cited tensions in the Middle East that had caused uncertainty in the stability of crude and petroleum end-products as another reason for an "inevitable" increase.

But Bagong Alyansang Makabayan spokesperson Renato Reyes condemned the local oil companies and accused them of taking advantage of the "so-called tensions."

"There's no basis, no justification for a new round of oil price hikes and even the increase in the prices of LPG. In light of the recent profiteering and overpricing by the Big Three, there's no reason for an increase," he said.

He said his group, together with major transport groups and other militant groups, would be staging street protests by the first week of September.

Treasury yields rise on budget-gap worries

PHILIPPINE debt yields rose sharply yesterday as budget deficit worries boosted anticipation of higher auction rates for two-year treasury bonds, traders said.

"Yields are higher today in anticipation of tomorrow's re-issuance of two-year papers. (Yesterday), the two-year paper was taken at 9 percent and we're looking at the paper to fetch an average rate of 9.5 percent at the auction," a trader from a foreign bank said.

The Bureau of Treasury will offer P3 billion of old series two-year papers today. The paper was offered on July 30 and fetched a coupon rate of 8.875 percent.

Traders said market participants were expecting treasury bills and bond rates to steadily rise, given fears of rising interest rates.

Despite government assurances it had enough to finance the shortfall, traders said they expect the government to borrow more to keep a comfortable cash position.

The finance department last week announced that the budget shortfall for the first seven months reached P133.1 billion, breaching the full-year deficit target of P130 billion.

"We expect a lot more pressure on interest rates in the coming weeks. The market is frustrated by the bloated budget deficit. Nobody believes the 130-billion budget deficit is achievable," another trader said.

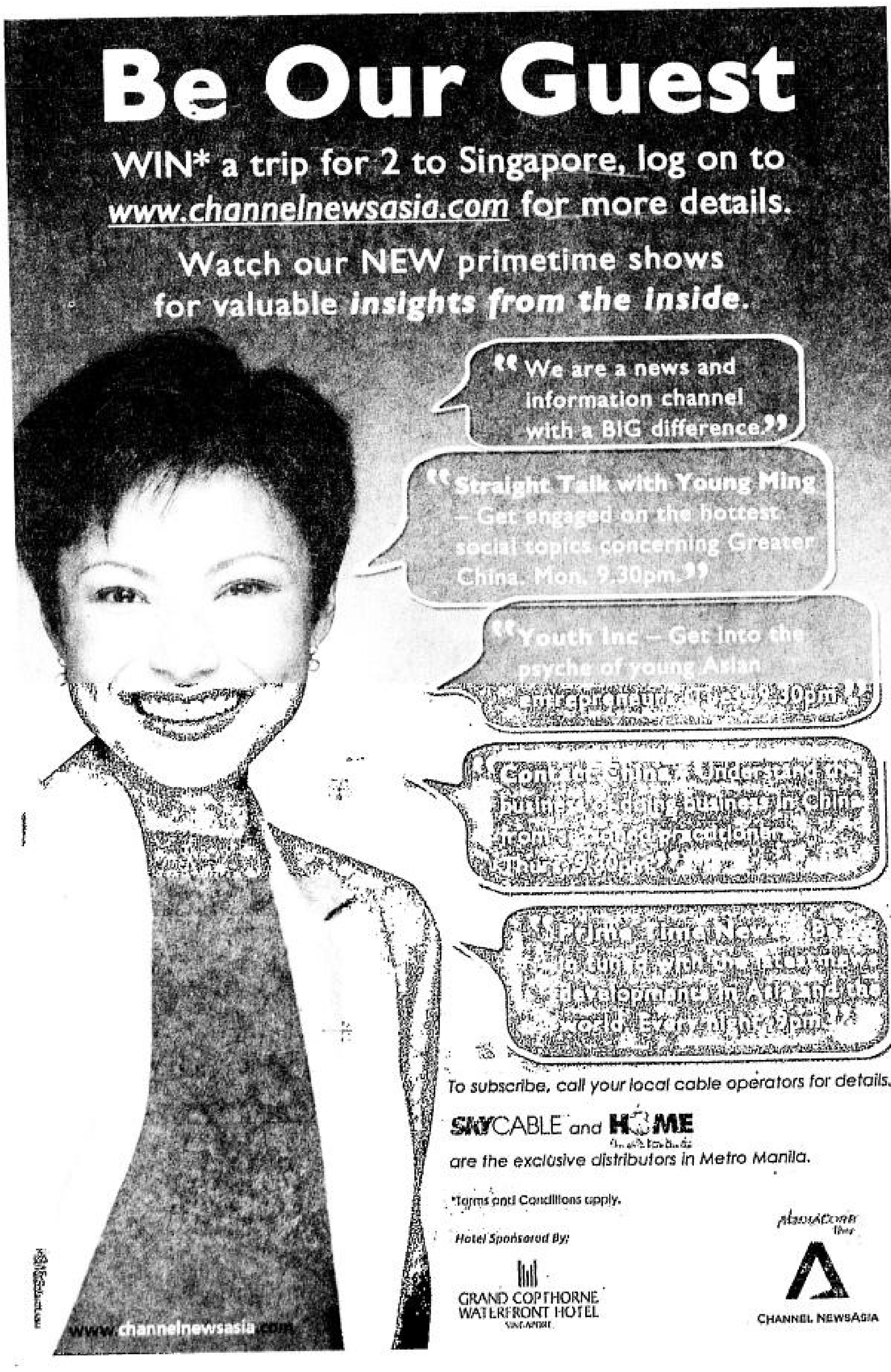
In the secondary market, traders said yields shot up by as much as 40 basis points as the market began absorbing the reality of a huge budget deficit.

"All the transactions today were customer driven. There was no interest in position taking. The two-year was taken at 9 percent and this was higher by almost 25 basis points. The four-year at 10.875 percent was higher by 30-40 basis points," a dealer said.

The five-year paper was dealt at 11.85 percent, according to the dealer.

Best bid yields for three-month bills reached 5.5 percent; six-months at 6.325 percent; one-year at 7.375 percent; two-year bonds at 9.5 percent; three-year at 10.25 percent; four-year at 11.25 percent; five-year at 12.0 percent; seven-year at 12.5 percent; 10-year at 12.75 percent; 20-year at 14.375 percent; and 25-year at 14.75 percent. *Reuters*

HSBC EXEC IN MANILA
HSBC Asia-Pacific chair David Eldon exchanges pleasantries with Makati Business Club chair Ricardo Romulo and MBC trustees Roberto de Ocampo and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala. Eldon addressed members of the MBC and HSBC's customers on "The New Old Rules," giving insights on how Asian corporations can meet today's corporate and economic challenges. Eldon also led the opening of HSBC Savings Bank at the RCBC Plaza.



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One-stop shop speeds up processing of port cargo

PROCESSING, documentation and delivery of cargo has become faster with the opening of a one-stop shop of the Bureau of Customs (BOC), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and Bauan International Port Inc. (BIPI).

The one-stop shop, inaugurated during the weekend, houses the satellite offices of the BOC, PPA and BIPI at the Bauan terminal in Batangas.

"Transactions and the administration of clearances at the Bauan international port are now fast and efficient with the one-stop shop. Port users will no longer have to transact and get their government clearances at Batangas City as customs and port authority personnel are readily available on-site," said Aurelio Garcia, Bipi general manager.

The three entities decided to have a one-stop shop as cargo volume at the Bauan terminal continued to grow.

Bipi improved its terminal facilities and began computerization to better serve Bauan port users. Current operations include cargo handling, stevedoring and storage services for bulk and break bulk cargo.

"As industries continue to flourish in Batangas, the need for a port that is reliable and efficient is important to sustain the local economy and the national economy in general. Bipi is ready to serve Batangas and its business partners," Garcia said.

The one-stop shop was inaugurated by Batangas Gov. Hermilando Mandanas, Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo, Bauan Mayor Herminigildo Dolor, Victor Arellano, port services manager of PPA-Batangas, and Edgardo Abesamis, Bipi president.

The Bauan terminal is located 120 km south of Manila, facing the Batangas Bay. In 1999, ICTSI formed a joint venture with Atlantic Gulf and the Pacific (AG&P) to develop and operate a multipurpose terminal handling general cargo, project cargo and bulk cargo.

The facility is seen to support cargo movements in the Calabarzon area and neighboring environs, and is expected to serve as an alternative to the Port of Manila. Bipi is a subsidiary of International Container Terminal Services Inc.

Review of market access of tuna exports to US seen

THE TUNA Canners Association of the Philippines said it has conveyed its sentiments on the US Trade Act 2002 to US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone.

In a statement, TCAP spokesperson Francisco Buencamino said the Philippines expressed appreciation that the approved Congressional Act changed the tariff quota formula for US-bound canned tuna from 2.4 million cases to 2.54 million cases based on the more stable basis of US domestic consumption, from the previous US domestic production, which is continuously declining.

But TCAP said it was disappointed that the Andean countries were given zero duty for their exports of pouched tuna to the United States, a move that may edge out the Philippines altogether.

However, TCAP pointed out that "pouched" tuna would compete directly with the canned tuna exported by the Philippines to the US market. The Philippines exports large sized institutional cans, and not retail size cans.

While pouched tuna in retail size is more expensive than retail-size canned tuna, pouched tuna is cheaper in large size than canned tuna. TCAP said that this provision the legislation favored Thailand, whi owned the brand Chicken of the Sea that widely distributed in the United States in tail-size cans.

"It will be damaging to the Philippin when the demand for pouched tuna in sizes increases, specially when Andean ca ning plants begin converting their canneri to pouched tuna production," Buencamin said.

Under the US legislation, the quota pro sion is a universal quota and not specific to t Philippines.

"We cannot expect, nor are we capable, corner the quota as a country—specific quo to be enjoyed by the Philippines alone. It i global quota which all exporters to the US w scramble for," the TCAP official said.

"The US embassy officials agreed to brin our observations to their Washington experts for review and evaluation."

Buencamino expressed optimism that the Philippines may yet get a more equitable deal for market access to the United States once the US misperceptions are straightened out.

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
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Sole searching

Text by Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Romy Homillada

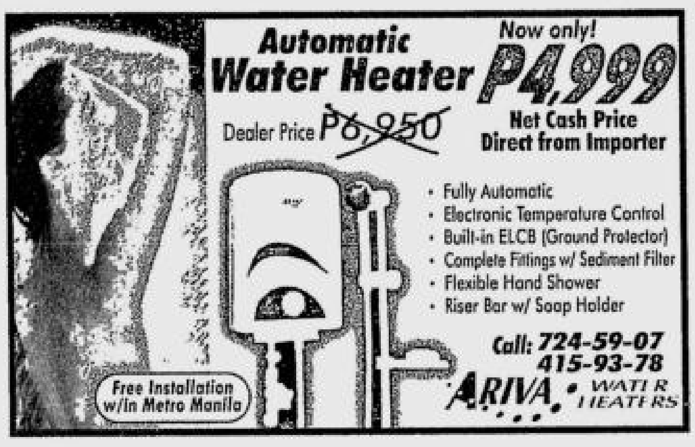
THE FIRST thing that strikes you about him is his uncanny resemblance to the Padilla brothers—Robin and Rustom. It turned out that certified foot reflexologist Desmond Sim used to be an actor, but his performances nowadays are related to therapy.

For two days last week, several people were able to experience the ancient art of foot reflexology in the hands of Sim and two of his colleagues from Singapore. Consider it a blessing if your feet are touched by these men, for they have the ability to unlock your hidden illness and the gift to help ease the pain. However, Sim points out that they are not medical practitioners.

SOLE/ p.C2

> In the hands of Desmond Sim, your feet can help alleviate hidden illness through therapy

DESMOND Sim has the ability to unlock one's hidden illness.



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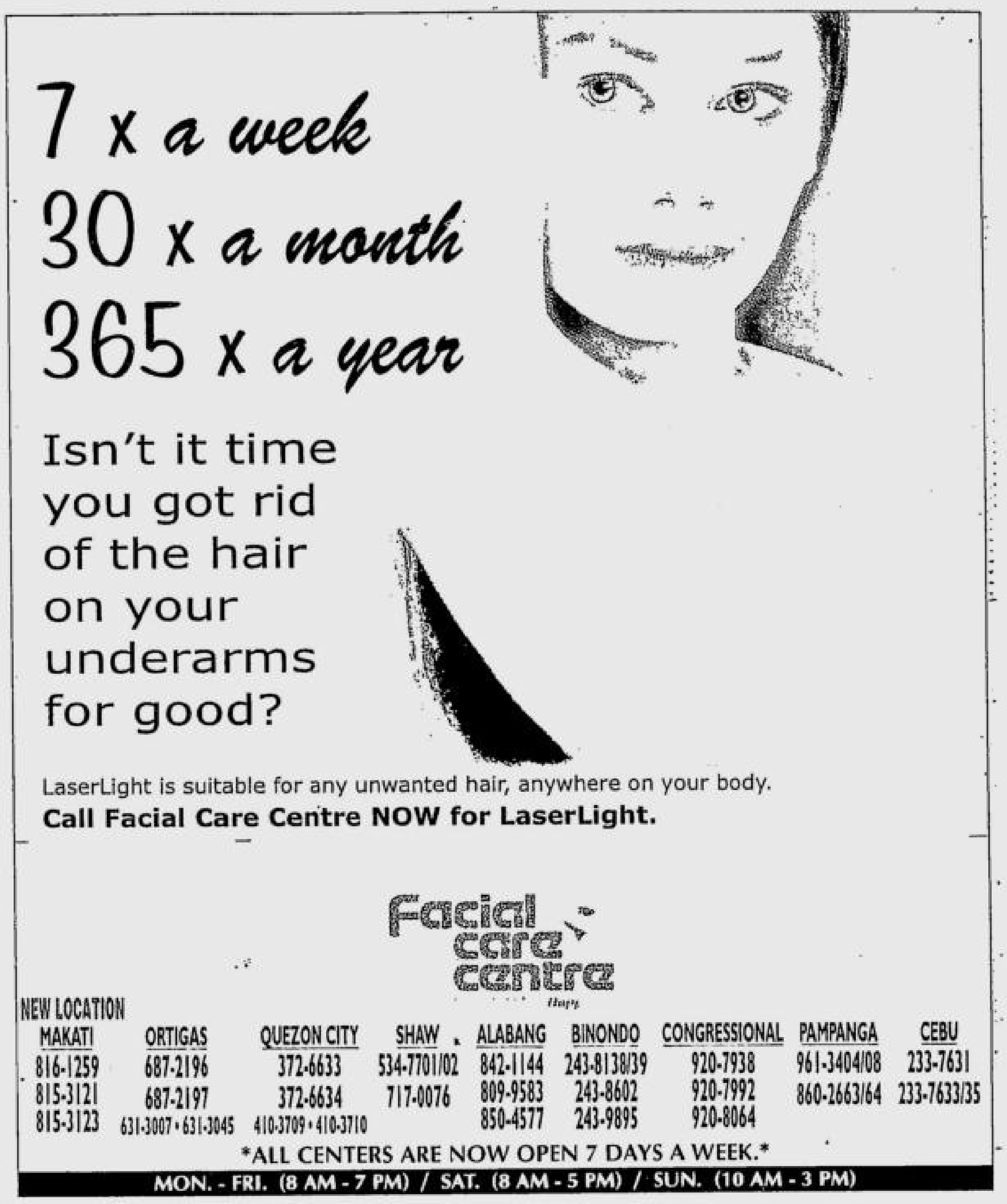

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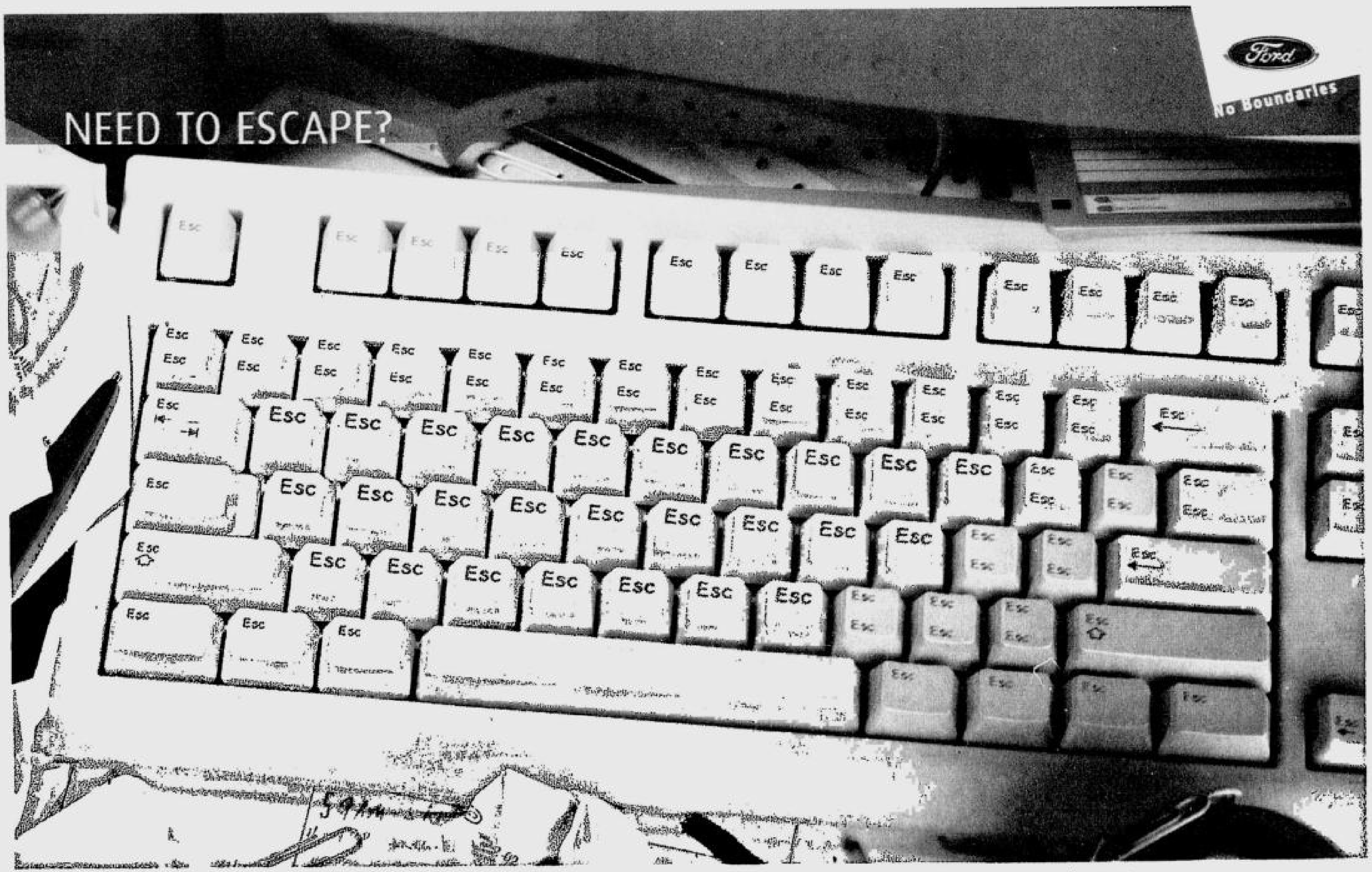


Come see how you can. August 31 to September 6. The Glorietta Activity Center, Makati City.

Sole searching

From page C1

JAMBY Madrigal, Desmond Sim and Eric Valade

"We are not doctors; we don't treat you, we don't cure you. What we do is help stimulate blood circulation, thereby normalizing functions of the body's organs and building up the body's resistance against infection," he says.

Ancient method

It was Jamby Madrigal who brought Desmond Sim to Manila after she experienced the wonders of his therapy at Sim's Cypress Therapy Center in Singapore three years ago. "I was very sick, overstressed and was 30 pounds overweight," she related. "My hair was falling out."

Madrigal shuns doctors and has always tried to go the way of ancient naturopathic methods. "After Desmond diagnosed what it was that I had, I pursued reflexology (treatment) and found myself getting better little by little," she says. Today, Madrigal has never felt and looked better. Together with Sim, she will be opening the Harmony Therapy Center in Greenhills (tel. 718-2295 to 96) in September and hopes to share the experience with a greater number of people.

The Foot Reflexology Health Method (FRHM) is natural therapy that combines modern research and traditional Chinese and Western medical formulas in foot reflexology. This time-tested health method has been examined and analyzed by modern instruments and proven safe and effective for men and women of all ages.

The principle underlying this science is that there are 10 energy zones running the length of your body from head to toe. The reflex zones in your feet correspond to different organs and parts of the body. Each zone is a channel for energy. Applying pressure to a particular foot area releases vital energy and opens blocked pathways, which ensure proper functioning of the organ that lies in that zone.

Time-tested

In an article in the Singaporean magazine Islander, Valerie Trevor wrote of the history of foot reflexology. Trevor says that in China, foot reflexology has been in existence for more than 5,000 years, at about the time of the Han Dynasty. However, owing to the changes in dynasties, coupled with natural disasters and calamities such as the burning of all written books by the Emperor of the Qin Dynasty, this knowledge was passed down in secret from generation to generation.

In the 1930s, medical masseuse Eunice Ingham discovered that she could provide relief treatment to the entire body by applying massage pressure to the feet. She then developed a map of the feet to indicate the locations of reflex points for every part of the body. The map now forms the basic guide for reflexology massage. Most of the reflex zones or nerve points are found on the soles of the feet, but there are some on the top and around the ankles. Sim says that long ago, these pressure points were massaged naturally, but with the advent of shoes like high heels, the interference to blood circulation caused by the feet's unnatural arched angles caused problems.

FOOT reflexologist Sim

The family-owned Cypress Therapy Center is one of the more popular foot reflexology centers in Singapore. New customers have to wait for several weeks for their appointment.

The most amazing part about the reflexology method offered by Sim and his colleagues is the accuracy of the diagnosis. People from all walks of life would rave about how these men were able to tell exactly what it was that ailed them. One woman's jaw literally dropped when Sim himself was able to diagnose the exact size of a cyst in her uterus! Another lady was very surprised that Sim's colleague was able to tell that she had had an operation six months earlier.

Spiritual benefit

Sim, who is a born-again Christian, also likes to talk about the Word of God while diagnosing patients and giving them treatment. Thus, people who come to his center are given the added benefit of having their spiritual needs ministered to as well. That afternoon he spent time with a woman who came in looking very sad due to the cancer she had been recently diagnosed with. Sim was very patient but firm in telling her the things she needed to avoid in order to alleviate her illness.

Sim knows what he's talking about as his own mother had been diagnosed with nose cancer six years ago and is now fully recovered.

The mind, body and spirit must work together in order to achieve wholeness and healing. Sim stresses though that their treatment techniques cannot perform miracles, "Only God can do that," he says.

He believes that when the feet are massaged regularly, tense muscles release their grip on blood vessels, enabling blood to circulate freely, distributing adequate nutrients to the cells and removing waste products.

Sim sums up his center's belief by saying that no matter what the skeptics say about the art and science of foot reflexology, "prevention is still the better cure and one should be responsible for his or her own health." Amen to that.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

WEEKLY DOSAGE

GUAIFENESIN
Strepcof
EXPECTORANT
CARBOCISTEINE
Streppies

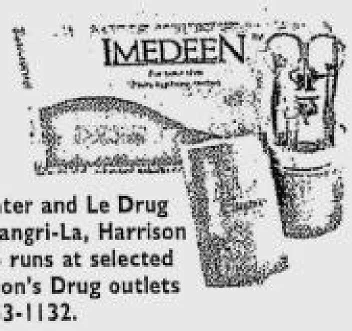
GUAIFENESIN Strepcof and Carbocisteine Streppies are new cough syrup brands for adults and children, respectively. Strepcof is an expectorant containing the active ingredient Guaifenesin to melt phlegm for easy expectoration. Streppies is a pediatric suspension mucolytic that contains Carbocisteine, which alters the structure of the mucus, decreasing its viscosity or thickness while facilitating its removal by expectoration. Available in leading drugstores nationwide, Strepcof and Streppies can be purchased in 60-ml or 120-ml bottle packaging.

Seminar on European spa techniques set

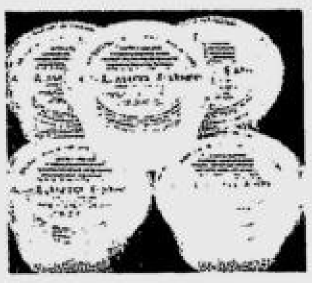
INTERNATIONAL Cosmetiques Inc., in cooperation with Bellitas Limited UK, will hold a seminar on "European Spa Techniques for Face and Body Treatments," on Sept. 25 and 26, 1-6 p.m., at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Call 951-4010 to 11, 931-9199 and 932-3545.

PROGRAM LAUNCHING. Gardenia High Calcium Loaf, the first and only high calcium bread recommended by the Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines Foundation Inc. (OSPFI) and Gold's Gym, the largest premiere gym chain in the world, in partnership with the OSPFI, recently launched the Bone Fitness Program at Gold's Gym Glorietta 3.

The Bone Fitness Program, to run from September to October, is a total body workout program that combines muscle strengthening and stretching exercises that promote strong bones.



IMEDEEN is giving away a compact manicure set for every purchase of an Imedeen Double Pack until Sept. 30. This promo can be availed of at the cosmetics counter and Le Drug branches in Rustan's Shangri-La, Harrison Plaza and Cubao. It also runs at selected Mercury Drug and Watson's Drug outlets in Metro Manila. Call 753-1132.



C-LIUM Fibre is a combination of soluble and insoluble fiber made from psyllium husks that helps maintain bowel regularity and eliminate constipation as it softens stools and absorbs water. Call Garsworth Marketing Inc., at 524-6549/8146.

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Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

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FAQs (frequently asked questions)

I recently enrolled in MEDICard. My membership card states that I have a dreaded disease limit of P 60,000. Does this mean that the total amount of my medical availments will be up to this limit?

As the name implies, dreaded disease limit (DDL) is a limit for dreaded illnesses. Examples of such are Stroke and Diabetes. The DDL **IS ON A PER ILLNESS PER YEAR BASIS.** This is in contrast to an Annual Benefit Limit (ABL) which is cumulative of all medical availments, whatever the diagnosis.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Dr. Joselito J. Montesclaros is MEDICard's Medical Coordinator at the Mactan Community Hospital in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu. Doc Joselito is also the Medical Director for the hospital. He specializes in Pediatrics and has more than 12 years of professional experience. He joined MEDICard way back in 1996. Doc Joselito finished his degree in Medicine at the Cebu Doctors College and took his residency training for his specialization at the Cebu Doctors Hospital. He also holds a Masters degree in Hospital Administration from the Cebu Doctors Graduate School. Most of his free time is spent with his family, Dr. Emma Montesclaros, a MEDICard accredited OB-Gynecologist and their two children, Julia Elise and Joan Eloise. He also enjoys surfing the world wide web. Visit him for all your medical requirements at the Mactan Community Hospital from Mondays to Fridays, 8 AM to 5 in the afternoon.

Providers' Updates

MARY MEDIATRIX MEDICAL CENTER: With an aim of maintaining its good relations with it s medical providers, MEDICard headed by its Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya and Provider Relations Senior Manager, Ms. Julie Domine together with Malou Bonghanoy (Provider Relations Officer) and Hannah Sto. Tomas (Provider Relations Staff) spearheaded the physician's re-orientation on the HMO's product, policies and procedures at the Mary Mediatrix Medical Center, in Lipa City, Batangas. Attendees were the MEDICard accredited doctors of the hospital. Also present were Dr. Robert Magsino, Hospital Medical Director and Dr. Jesus Inciong, MEDICard's Medical Coordinator for the hospital. The event also marked the contract renewals of the accredited physicians and Mary Mediatrix.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e -mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

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ISO 9002

Paranormal phenomena vs quantitative analysis

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

LAST WEEK, I bumped into a former colleague, a professor of quantitative analysis at the Asian Institute of Management, in a French coffee shop in Greenbelt, Makati. He began innocently by asking me how my research on paranormal phenomena was going on. I politely replied that things are going fine and more people, it seems, are becoming aware of its importance.

Then he started changing his tone and said that my writings about supernatural beings, angels, psychic experiences, astral projection and near-death experiences are catering to the weakness of Filipinos, who have been brainwashed into believing such things by the Catholic religion.

He said I should read more science books. "Science has shown," he lectured to me, "that such things as angels, or the feeling of going out of our physical bodies, are just results of some chemical reactions and electrical disturbances in our neurons."

ILLUSTRATION STEPH BRAVO

They are nothing more than a figment of our imagination, he said, and have absolutely no objective reality. He urged me to be more scientific in my writings. I told him I have always been scientific in my writings, but not in the narrow way he has defined science to be. To him, anything that cannot be measured in physical terms, or proven in laboratory experiments, is not scientific.

I told him that I am very much aware of such views by materialist scientists. To them, consciousness is just a matter of electrical circuitry in the brain. And this goes back to the pioneering experiments on memory by Dr. Wilder Penfield, who, while probing with electrodes in certain portions of the exposed brain, made the subjects recall piano music or the taste of their grandmother's favorite soup during their childhood. So he concluded that memory lay in certain scientific parts of the brain and could be accessed through electrical stimulation. This was held to be true, until the great neuro-scientist and brain specialist, Dr. Karl Pribram, came along and postulated his now famous Holographic Theory of the brain.

Regarding near-death experiences, I told him I was aware of the experiment conducted by Canadian scientists where they placed air force pilots in a rotating machine, and with the centrifugal force at work, they experienced things similar to those who have had near-death experiences. The centrifugal force reduced oxygen going to their brains and they were seeing visions. So, they concluded that what people see during so-called near-death experiences are merely hallucinations caused by lack of oxygen in the brain! They conveniently forgot to take account of the fact that almost all near-death experiences resulted in life-changing transformations, which did not occur in any of the pilots who participated in those scientific experiments in Canada.

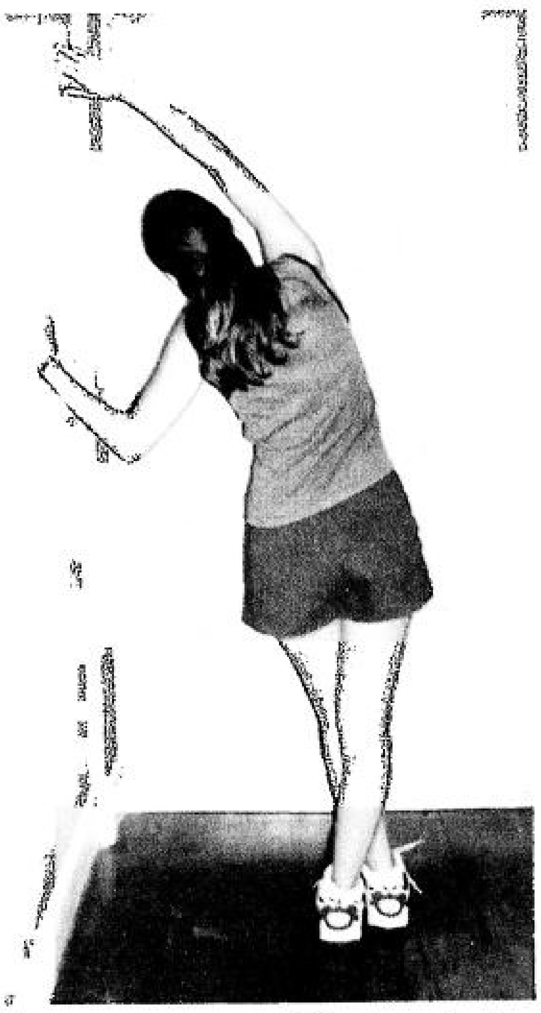
It is hard to argue with people who have chosen to close their minds to other forms of reality and to other modes of knowing. If a person believes that nothing exists outside the physical universe, then nothing can change his mind, even if you present before him documented proofs of the existence of angels, nature spirits or ghosts. To him, all these will still be labeled mere hallucinations or imaginations with no objective reality.

Oh, well, what's the use? As somebody wisely observed, people can be divided into two types: the Aristotelians, who believe only what can be seen and measured physically, and the Platonists, who believe that there is something that exists beyond the physical world, that this universe is only a pale and an imperfect reflection of an idea.

And as the philosopher Soren Kierkegaard said, "There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what isn't so. The other is to refuse to believe what is so."

E-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Sideways wall stretch

STRETCHES the muscles at the side of the torso.

Equipment:
Wall or doorway

Exercise technique:

1. Stand sideways against a wall or doorway with your left foot crossed over your right foot.
2. Place your left hand against the wall at chest level.
3. Reach upward against the wall with your right arm.
4. Using your left arm for balance, slowly lean your body to the wall as you reach even higher with your right arm.
5. Hold for 10-15 seconds.
6. Do the other side (cross the right foot in front of the left).

Performance tips:

1. Keep your feet flat on the floor as you lean sideways.
2. Keep breathing as you hold the stretch.

An extreme but healthy approach to weight loss

From page C8

two cookies your officemate gave you after lunch, the handful of chips you ate from your kid's snack, and the three bites you took from your husband's ice cream after dinner. You can easily accumulate a few hundred calories a day without your even being aware of it. Writing down on a small notebook what and how much you eat as well as the amount of exercise you do is the easiest form of self-monitoring.

Daily exercise is the way

Aside from making the point that exercising is one of the most effective ways to keep calories under control, Kirschenbaum recommends that you exercise every day so that you have less chances of making excuses not to do it. He says that not exercising is not an option because you are trying to combat biological forces that are dead set against weight loss and not just a general improvement of your health.

By his definition, exercise does not have to mean going to a gym or even exercising at home. It can also mean cleaning your house, washing your car, gardening, taking your dog for a walk, etc. In short, he recommends that you do some sort of physical activity every day.

You can manage stress without overeating and under-exercising

Many people use food to cope with stress. Unless you learn how to use other methods aside from food, you will not be successful in controlling your weight. Kirschenbaum feels it is imperative that you learn stress management techniques so you don't fall into the trap of turning to food every time there is a stressful period in your life.

Maintaining weight loss is actually easier, not harder, than losing weight

Kirschenbaum says that maintaining weight loss is easier for as long as you don't let a lapse lead to relapse. He acknowledges that it is impossible for anyone to eat perfectly so occasional lapses (French fries or doughnuts) happen even to the most successful weight controllers. To prevent lapses (a temporary detour from the overall plan) from becoming relapses (a full-blown change back into old behavior), he says to remember two things: Lapses are inevitable and lapses won't become relapses if you maintain your self-monitoring.

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines will hold a seminar on Sept. 21 at the Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman campus. Topics for gym instructors are "Exercise and Infection," "Preventing Foot and Ankle Injuries," "Why Women Gain Weight." Topics for group exercise are "Kickboxing," "Stretch and Tone," "Funk Aerobics," "Latin Aerobics." For novice instructors, there will be a workshop on "How to Create a Mind-Body Class (A Review of Yoga and Pilates)." Call 850-7647.

Watch "In Fitness and In Health" on Studio 23, Mondays to Fridays at 6-6:30 a.m.

For questions, past articles and exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com

Convention on obesity management

THE EIGHTH Annual Convention of the Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight and Obesity (Pasoo) will focus on "The Controversies in Obesity Management." It will be held on Sept. 13 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua will be the keynote speaker on "Learning from the Past and Planning for the Future."

Other topics include "The Role of Dietary Supplement in the Management of Obesity: from Research to Application," "The Psychology of Obesity, Weight Loss and Weight Gain Research and Clinical Findings," "Cultural Issues in Obesity Management: Communication and Counseling."

"Pasoo Whiz Kids for Fitness," a decisive contribution in addressing the alarming growth of juvenile obesity in the country, will also be launched. It is a joint project of the grade-school department of St. Scholastica's College, headed by Florina Castillo and Adelaide Vargas.

The public is invited to join the "Walk While You Can" on Sept. 8 at the Fort Bonifacio grounds. Registration starts at 5:30 a.m., walk proper at 6 a.m. and Holy Mass at 8 a.m., with program and breakfast to follow. Sanirose S. Orbeta and Joey Sy of Roche Philippines are in charge of this fitness event.

Call 531-1278.

Deadline for pre-residency applications set

ST. Luke's Department of Medicine is accepting pre-residency training applications until Aug. 31. The qualifying exam is scheduled on Sept. 14, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., at the Cathedral Heights Building Complex in St. Luke's Medical Center, QC.

Requirements for application are two pieces 2x2" and two pieces 1x1" ID pictures, a certified true copy of transcript of records, letter of recommendation from the dean, two letters of recommendation from medical consultants, class ranking, diploma of medical school, diploma of internship and board rating result.

Call 727-5541, 723-0101/0301 local 4209/5541.

HEALTH CHECKLIST

☐ Does your family have a history of kidney or heart problems?

☐ Do any of them suffer from diabetes or obesity?

☐ Want to avoid fatty and salty food?

If you checked any of these items, it's time to check the way you cook.

Start preparing meals with AMC cookware. AMC lets you cook your favorite dishes without oil, salt or water! Now, your family can enjoy healthier home cooking. And it comes at an affordable price, too! You can own AMC for as little as P1,100 a month -- with 0% interest on selected payment terms. Only from the world's leader in stainless steel cookware.

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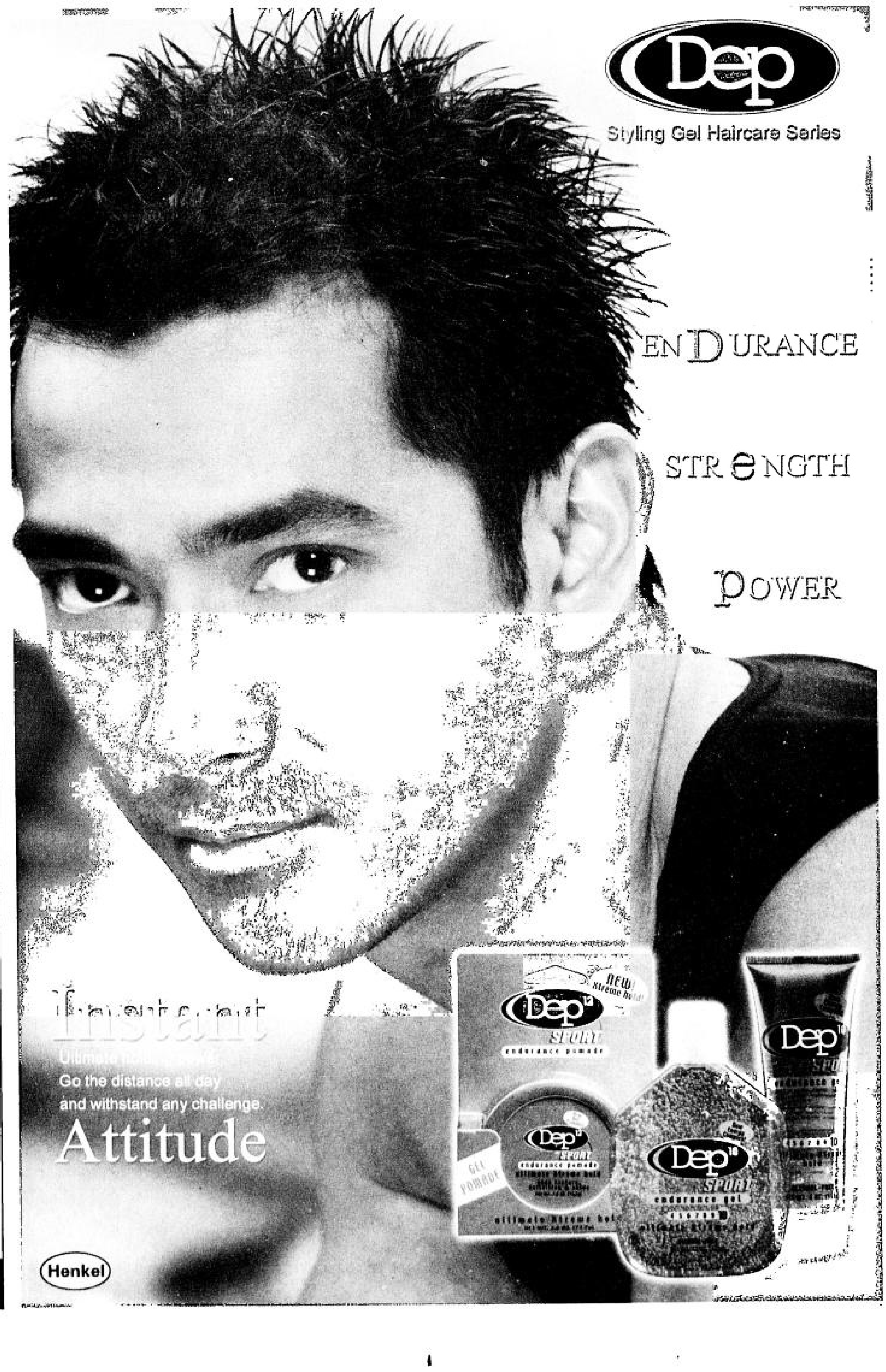

Eat to your heart's content without the guilt

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

WORDS like indulging, bingeing and craving are familiar to us. And at one time or another, we did any of the following:

- cheat on our diets
- make our own rules
- remain in denial about our cravings
- binge today and promise to make up for it tomorrow—but never did!
- regretted every morsel we ate—the day after

Diet dilemma

There are countless diet plans available to the health-conscious, each plan with its own pluses and minuses. As a result, the individual is confused as to which one is the best to follow.

From the onset, individual needs require tailor-fit plans, which is why it is best to consult your nutritionists. However, for purposes of following a regimen, always consider the safest and not the easiest.

Finding one that liberates you from pills, pre-packaged meals, powders, counting calories and roller-coaster weight gain/loss is not as difficult as finding a needle in a haystack.

Fat vs sugar

Studies show that there is something more fatal to the body than fat—sugar! Until recently, fat has been portrayed as the primary cause of weight gain, poor health and obesity. This doesn't mean, of course, that you have permission to eat a pound of lard a day. A balanced diet, including fat, is essential to a healthy body. Dr. Diana Schwarzbein, in her book "The Schwarzbein Principle," explains that if we do not eat enough dietary fat, we'll damage our body's ability to reproduce new cells.

Two main types of fats

Saturated: butter, lard (from animal fat), coconut oil, palm oil

Unsaturated: monounsaturated—olive oil, nut oil; polyunsaturated—corn oil, safflower oil

Eating real fat in its natural state such as butter, oil, cheese, sour cream, eggs, fish or meat fat has health benefits—believe it or not. This health philosophy states that real fats are necessary to make hormones. And without hormones, cell reproduction is compromised. But as always, moderation is the answer.

Sugars and starches are carbohydrates. One of the main sources of body fuel is carbo. The other one is fat. Sugar is surprisingly more fattening than fat. This is what happens inside your body when you eat carbo:

Carbo breaks down into glucose, which causes blood sugar to rise; the pancreas releases insulin (the fat-storing hormone) to balance the blood sugar by carrying the glucose to the cells to be burned off as energy. If

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES LAUNCHES NEW FREQUENT FLYER PROGRAM

Last August 1 Philippine Airlines launched Mabuhay Miles ™, the new frequent flyer program replacing PALsmiles and The Mabuhay Club.

Mabuhay Miles was developed by a dedicated team through dialogues with PALsmiles and The Mabuhay Club members and key frontline staff and through in-depth evaluations of industry trends. As explained by PAL Assistant Vice President for Products Joy Lynn M. Pasiliao, the new program is part of PAL's commitment to "constantly strive to make improvements that keep us at par with other customer loyalty programs".

The creation of Mabuhay Miles was made possible by the airline's investment in a multi-million dollar state-of-the-art system called Customer Relationship Information System (CRIS). By interfacing with PAL's reservations, ticketing and airport systems, CRIS efficiently tracks members' activities and aids frontline staff in providing more personalized service.

Highlights of Mabuhay Miles

Enjoy easier accessibility. Mabuhay Miles has lowered the minimum age requirement to two years. It also allows instant enrollment through the internet (where members can print their membership cards with lifetime ID numbers) or through tear-off cards from application forms.

Get more Mileage. The program generously allows members to earn 100% of actual flown miles on all fare types in Economy Class, and up to 175% for Trans-Pacific First Class flights. Members now have up to three years to convert their miles to free tickets. No more minimum 15,000 mileage requirement -- members need as little as 3,000 miles for a free one-way domestic award and just 15,000 miles for a round trip international award. The program has likewise taken out black-out dates, and members are presented the Flexiflyer ™ option, on top of their standard awards, to gain better chances on full flights.

Elevate your status. Now it's easier to achieve top-level status. The Mabuhay Miles Elite ™ status is awarded to those who accumulate 25,000 flight miles, or complete 30 one-way sectors in any class of service (or just 15 sectors in Mabuhay or First Class) with Philippine Airlines. Members are automatically upgraded to Premier Elite ™ by flying 45,000 miles, or completing 50 one-way sectors in any class of service (or 25 sectors in Mabuhay or First Class). Members who log one million cumulative flight miles from their date of enrollment are elevated to the Million Miler tier, giving them lifetime Premier Elite Status.

Experience elite privileges. Mabuhay Miles Elite and Premier Elite members are provided exceptional benefits that are particularly valued by airlines' frequent travelers. Mabuhay Miles ensures them great value throughout their whole travel experience. For every flight they take, elite level members receive additional bonuses from 25% to as much as 75% on their actual flown miles, making it so much faster to redeem their next free award. Furthermore, the new program has one of the most generous lounge access policies offering free access to elite tier members (even including travelling companions of Premier Elite members), unlike the standard fee-based system of other carriers. Free Upgrade Travel Certificates for Premier Elite members may now be transferred to travelling companions, and Million Milers may even get confirmed upgrades 24 hours prior to their flight.

Mabuhay Miles SportsPlus ™. Mabuhay Miles likewise offers a unique feature for sports lovers - SportsPlus. With three subscription levels to choose from - Philippines, Asia, and Global - Mabuhay Miles members are allowed up to 20 kilos of free luggage allowance for their sports equipment, as well as generous discounts from numerous program partners. Mabuhay Miles Elite and Premier Elite members are given, as part of their privileges, free subscription to SportsPlus.

Enjoy more ways to earn more Miles. The program likewise offers more opportunities for members to earn miles through their use of the co-branded Mabuhay Miles Visa from HSBC, and through Worldwide car rentals with Hertz. They also earn miles through stays at partner hotels and resorts, including Golden Tulip, Marco Polo, The Peninsula, Barcelo, Boracay Regency, Century Park Hotel, Days Hotel, Fridays Boracay, Maribago Bluewater, Pulchra, Shangri-la, and Waterfront.

Surf the web to get ready to fly. The world-wide-web serves as the newest channel for members who want the convenience of accessing

Visit us at www.hsbc.com.ph

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HSBC
Philippine Airlines
mabuhay MILES
VISA

Now, the world's local bank has teamed up with Asia's first airline to make it easier for you to enjoy free local and international flights.

Use your card and get ready to take off!
With the new Mabuhay Miles Visa from HSBC, every time you shop, gas up or dine out, you earn Bonus Points that you can convert to Miles. Collect enough Miles and you get a free flight!

Earn FREE flights fast!
Every P45 you charge to your Mabuhay Miles Visa earns you 1 Mile. That's one of the lowest spend-to-Miles conversion rates in town. Just imagine how far the cost of a *merienda* can take you when you charge it to your card. With a rate this low, you'll be flying for free here or abroad in no time.

Prepare to pile up the Miles.
Once you're a Mabuhay Miles Visa cardholder, you also become a member

Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

your cells are full of sugar, it will not accept anymore. Insulin will then send the sugar to be stored as fat. Lesson learned? The higher the sugar intake, the greater the chances of gaining weight and high cholesterol levels.

Sugar: bread, rice, instant potatoes, alcohol, cereal, milk, fruit, sugar. Note: not all sugar is bad for you. Refined carbo is what you have to avoid, like white flour (while pasta), white bread, cakes and pastries since these convert to sugar easily (high glycemic).

Complex carbos like whole-grain pastas/breads, low-starch vegetables are considered low-glycemic.

Cheating on your diet

Suzanne Somers in her best-seller "Eat, Cheat and Melt the Fat Away" (Bibliarch), shares her delicious method to slim down in seven steps:

1. Eliminate all funky foods: sugar, caffeine, alcohol and high starch foods.
2. Eat fruits alone on an empty stomach.
3. Eat protein/fats with veggies only.
4. Eat carbos with veggies only.
5. Keep protein/fats separate from carbo.
6. Wait three hours before switching combinations—protein/fats meal to carbo meal.

7. Do not skip a single meal. Eat three times a day and until you are satisfied.

She promises that you don't have to count calories ever again—and still lose weight. For those who seriously intend to lose weight, you may want to try this new approach that guarantees results.

Lose-weight visualization:

Get an old photo of yourself, one which you like the best. Chances are, you were slimmer then. Tape it to your mirror where you can see it every morning, then affirm: "Everyday in every way, I am looking better and better."

If you can commit yourself to a healthier eating lifestyle, you will achieve your goals. If you will exercise regularly, you will be trimmer and stronger. But the biggest "if" is this: If you believe in yourself, you will succeed.

Love and light!

Visit nutritionist Dr. Sanirose Orbeta at 17 San Geronimo St., Magallanes Village, Makati City or call 852-6401.

"Total Wellness," the body-mind-spirit workshop by Jimmy Licauco and Cory Quirino, will soon be presented to the public. Schedule to be confirmed this week. Call 637-9653 or 892-6806.

"Forever Young," (revised edition), is now available at National Bookstore and Power Books.

Watch the author's beauty rituals at 8 a.m. daily on "Beauty In & Out," Unang Hirit, GMA 7.

E-mail the author at coryquirino_fy@yahoo.com

Eat, drink then take off.
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broad --- via the Mabuhay Miles Visa from HSBC.

Mabuhay Miles, PAL's frequent flyer program. So every time you fly
L, you earn additional Miles on top of what you get by using your card
pay for your fare. Plus, you get *1,000 bonus Miles* when you first use
ur card. That brings you closer to flying FREE!

US: Get a chance to win any of six FREE
L Swingaround Travel Packages!
t approved for the Mabuhay Miles Visa between 1 September 2002
28 February 2003 for a chance to win any of six Swingaround Packages
2 to Los Angeles, Sydney, Hong Kong, or Bangkok! You can also earn
re chances to win with every P500 card spend posted on your statement
account during the promo.

ply now! See flyers for more details or call 878-7878.

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their accounts anywhere, anytime. They simply log on to www.philippineairlines.com to retrieve their mileage balance, update their profiles, calculate accrual and redemption possibilities, and find out exclusive promo offers.

For more information on the program, visit www.philippineairlines.com. You may also contact the Mabuhay Miles Service Center at mabuhaymiles@pal.com.ph or by telephone at (632) 8180111.

WORLD'S LOCAL BANK LAUNCHES NEWEST WAY TO FLY FREE

HSBC recently launched its latest credit card, the Mabuhay Miles Visa - the official credit card of Philippine Airlines' frequent flyer program, Mabuhay Miles.

"We are pleased to partner with Philippine Airlines for our first airline co-brand venture in the Philippines. This new credit card brings exclusive benefits to cardholders of Mabuhay Miles Visa and gives them the unique chance to fly PAL for free by simply using their credit card," announced Paul Lawrence, chief executive officer of HSBC.

Supporting how Pinoys love to travel
HSBC understands how Pinoys often travel at the drop of a hat, whether to go back to their various hometowns during fiestas or other special occasions, to visit relatives overseas or just to simply get away from it all. With the Mabuhay Miles Visa, the world's local bank supports this Pinoy passion by making it easier for him to travel for free.

How it works
Once approved for a Mabuhay Miles Visa, a cardholder automatically becomes a member of Philippine Airlines' newest frequent flyer program, Mabuhay Miles. This makes him or her eligible to redeem free flights, particularly with the use of the Visa card.

With the new Mabuhay Miles Visa, everyday ordinary purchases automatically earn cardholders Bonus Points that can be converted to Miles. Accumulated Miles may then be used to redeem free domestic and international flights or service class upgrades.

Every Php 45 charged to the Mabuhay Miles Visa from HSBC earns one Bonus Point, equivalent to one mile. That is considered one of the lowest spend-to-Miles conversion rates ever. Meaning cardholders get more Miles for what they spend, making it easier for them to collect enough Miles to redeem a FREE flight.

FREE vacation abroad or at home
To celebrate the launch of the card, HSBC, together with Philippine Airlines, is giving away 7 Swingaround Travel Packages for two to Los Angeles, Sydney, Bangkok or Hong Kong. All these packages are in Business Class and come with free accommodations. Also being given away are 11 PALakbayan trips to Cebu, Boracay, Davao, Bohol or Palawan.

To win, just apply for the card. Upon approval, cardholders earn a raffle number. For more chances to win, just use the card - every Php 500 card purchase earns one additional raffle number.

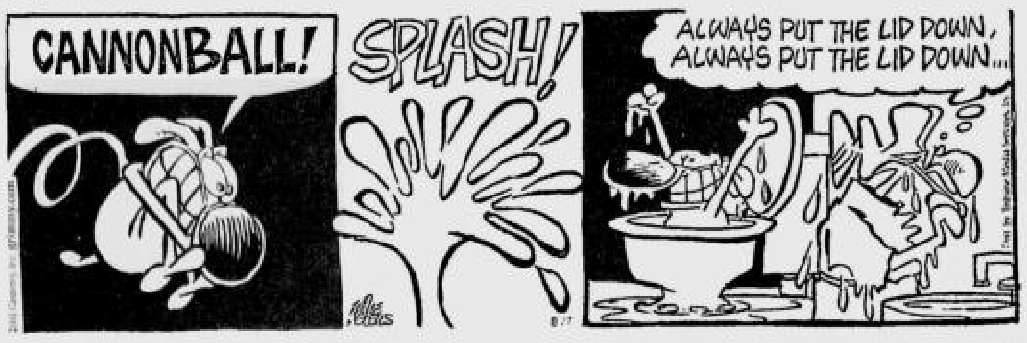
1000 bonus Miles
To start cardholders on their journey to getting free plane tickets from PAL, 1,000 bonus Miles will also be awarded free to their Mabuhay Miles account upon their first use of their Mabuhay Miles Visa credit card. That brings them closer to immediately redeeming a domestic flight. Or, with a few more card purchases, an international flight as well.

International credit card
On top of all this, the Mabuhay Miles Visa from HSBC also offers all the benefits of being an international credit card. High credit limits. Worldwide acceptance in over 22 million stores. Access to one's credit card account through HSBC's 24-hour On-Call Hotline, through online@hsbc and SMS banking via HSBC CC. 51 interest-free days and no interest charges if balances are paid in full before the due date. Option to pay as low as only 5% of balance. Cash advance of up to 30% of their card limit, available at over 400,000 Plus ATMs worldwide. Plus payment convenience at over 1000 branches of Security Bank, Banco de Oro, MetroBank, BPI and BPI Family Savings Bank. Joining and Annual fees for primary and secondary cardholders are also waived for the first year.

For more inquiries on the new Mabuhay Miles Visa, just call our On-Call Hotline at 878-7878. For those outside Metro Manila, dial our toll-free number at 1-800-1-888-85555.

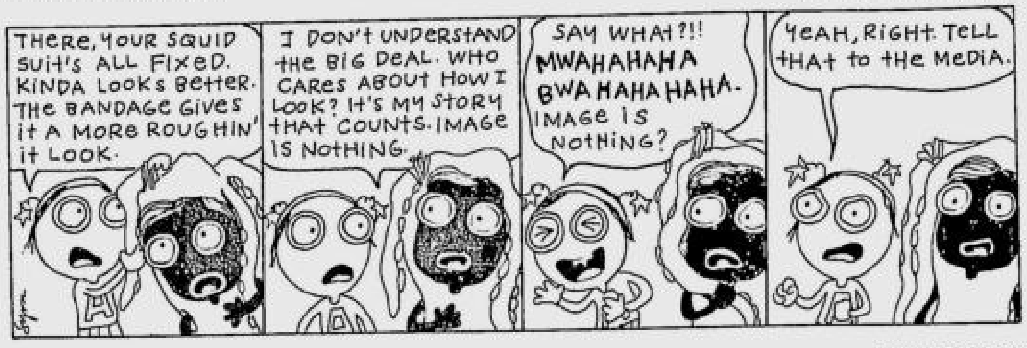
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


CANNONBALL!
SPLASH!
ALWAYS PUT THE LID DOWN, ALWAYS PUT THE LID DOWN...

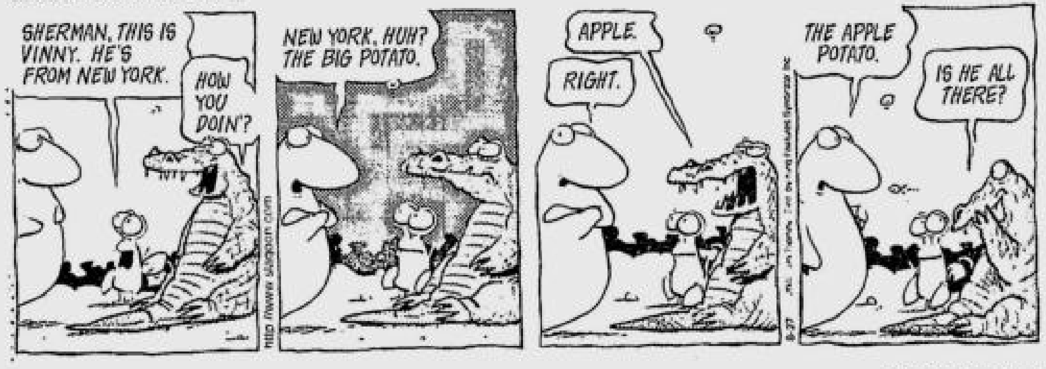
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


THERE, YOUR SQUID SUIT'S ALL FIXED. KINDA LOOKS BETTER. THE BANDAGE GIVES IT A MORE ROUGHIN' IT LOOK.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE BIG DEAL. WHO CARES ABOUT HOW I LOOK? IT'S MY STORY THAT COUNTS. IMAGE IS NOTHING.
SAY WHAT?!! MWAHAHAHA BWAHAHAHAHA. IMAGE IS NOTHING?
YEAH, RIGHT. TELL THAT TO THE MEDIA.

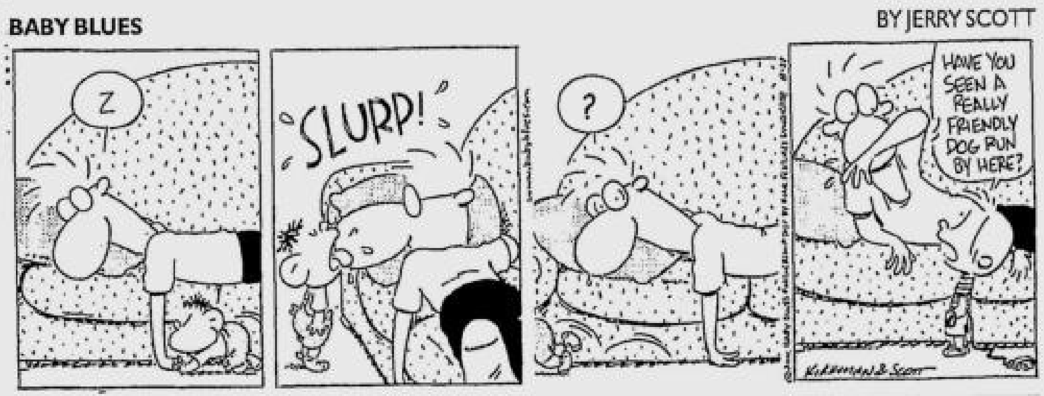
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SHERMAN, THIS IS VINNY. HE'S FROM NEW YORK.
HOW YOU DOIN'?
NEW YORK, HUH? THE BIG POTATO.
APPLE.
RIGHT.
THE APPLE POTATO.
IS HE ALL THERE?

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


Z
SLURP!
?
HAVE YOU SEEN A REALLY FRIENDLY DOG RUN BY HERE?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tuesday Weld, Daryl Dragon, Mother Teresa, Lyndon Johnaon

Happy Birthday: You'll have a good sense when it comes to financial dealings and will be able to pick lucrative investments. You will strive to improve yourself and you won't sit back and watch life pass you by. Follow your intuition this year. Your numbers are 8, 17, 22, 27, 38, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Lots will be happening today and you'll want to be involved in everything. You'll be dramatic, entertaining and the first one to want to try something new.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put the emphasis on your home and family. Although you may have some difficulty agreeing with others, you will be able to accomplish a lot if you compromise and work alongside friends and family.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Hang out with people who have similar interests and you will have more fun. Expect to meet someone special if you join an organization that crusades on behalf of the environment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't even try to second-guess what someone else is thinking or planning to do today. Focus on your own work and stay out of trouble. Someone you are close to will be unpredictable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): This is the perfect day to start a new course or attend a conference that will bring you added knowledge. Travel for business and pleasure will pay off in the contacts you make.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make a friendly gesture by inviting friends over for a get-together. The time to talk about possible new investments is now. You can make gains if you are quick to respond. Take a look at your assets.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Personal issues and romantic interludes should highlight your day. If you are in a relationship, take time to nurture it. If you are single, prepare to get out and have some fun.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It' time to put on the big push where work and achievement are concerned. Don't become too close to someone you are working with. Keep your private life separate from your work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can make some wonderful improvements today. Take a creative approach to whatever you do. People from a different background will offer you the best entertainment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't be troubled by the changes going on at home. You should avoid getting into an emotional discussion with a loved one. Your time will be much better spent making improvements around the house instead of disputes.

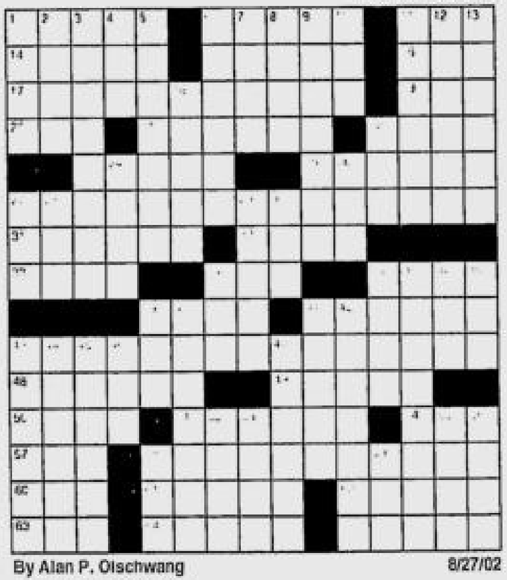
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your loyalty toward friends will pay off today. You can expect to get support and sympathy. Something interesting will arrive through the mail or e-mail. You will be able to make a good connection if you join a new group.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Work and money will be your prime concern today. If you have a job or are looking for one, this is a time to increase your income. Consider making a few changes to your investments.

Birthday Baby: You will be quick to react, and therefore you will always be one step ahead of everyone else. You will strive for perfection and you will be praised for your accuracy.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

8/27/02

ACROSS
1 Palm fruits
6 Slow, in music
11 Shrinks' org.
14 1985 John Malkovich film
15 Apply elbow grease
16 One of the twelve tribes
17 Dessert for Chiquita?
19 California fort
20 Station from Tenn.
21 On the market
22 Ballerina's skirt
23 Fuming
25 Amatory
27 To boldly go, e.g.
31 Brothers in arms
32 Mississippi senator
33 Coloring agents
34 Marsh
35 As far as
39 Actress Falco
41 From Pago Pago
43 Bowler's tough conversion
48 Lowest decks
49 Expire
50 Simply
51 Tribute
54 Male sib
57 Flight from the law
58 Windows feature
60 Zeta-theta separator
61 Patriot Thomas
62 Clan chief
63 Lair
64 Bronte and Boleyn
65 Loudness units

DOWN
1 Obligation
2 Lawyer Dershowitz
3 The Captain's Toni
4 Former queen of Spain
5 Wind in and out
6 Diminish
7 Montreal player
8 17th-century actress Gwyn
9 Three-pronged spear
10 Giant great
11 Tropical rodent
12 4th episode
13 Cite as pertinent
18 Pros' foes
22 Kiddy
24 Jacob the journalist
26 Musical dir.
27 Downcast
28 Layer
29 Warship grouping
30 Charged particle
34 Repair
35 Diamond arbiters
36 Vegetable grown on supports
37 Mai _ cocktail
38 Can. prov.
39 6th sense
40 Kind of hands?
41 Hosiery mishaps
42 Phases
43 Hoodwinked
44 Baroque
45 "Tracey Takes On" star
46 Rogers or Campanella
47 Makes joyous
52 Ken or Lena
53 Collect ore
55 Clair or Coty
56 Billfold fillers
58 Health resort
59 Pi follower

Monday's Puzzle Solved

S	U	M	A	C	■	P	E	W	S	■	A	H	A	B
A	R	E	N	A	■	A	D	I	T	■	H	A	S	A
C	I	G	A	R	■	R	I	S	E	■	M	I	S	T
■	■	■	T	O	O	K	T	H	E	F	I	F	T	H
H	A	I	■	U	P	S	■	■	P	L	E	A	S	E
A	T	E	A	S	E	■	S	A	L	E	S	■	■	■
C	O	P	P	E	D	A	P	L	E	A	■	A	C	T
K	N	E	E	■	■	S	A	O	■	■	A	G	R	A
S	E	E	■	F	L	E	W	T	H	E	C	O	O	P
■	■	■	P	A	E	A	N	■	A	M	E	R	C	E
O	M	E	A	R	A	■	■	A	L	B	■	A	F	R
W	E	N	T	O	N	T	H	E	L	A	M	■	■	■
N	A	S	T	■	T	E	A	S	■	R	A	D	A	R
E	T	U	I	■	O	S	L	O	■	G	U	A	V	A
D	Y	E	S	■	S	T	O	P	■	O	L	D	E	N

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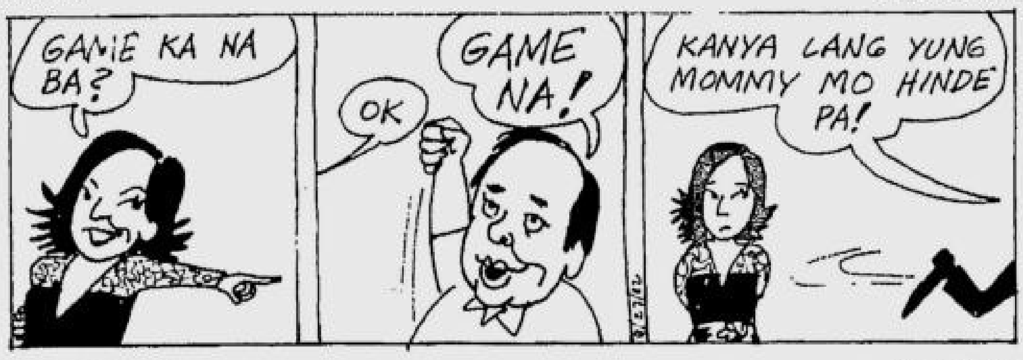
8/27/02

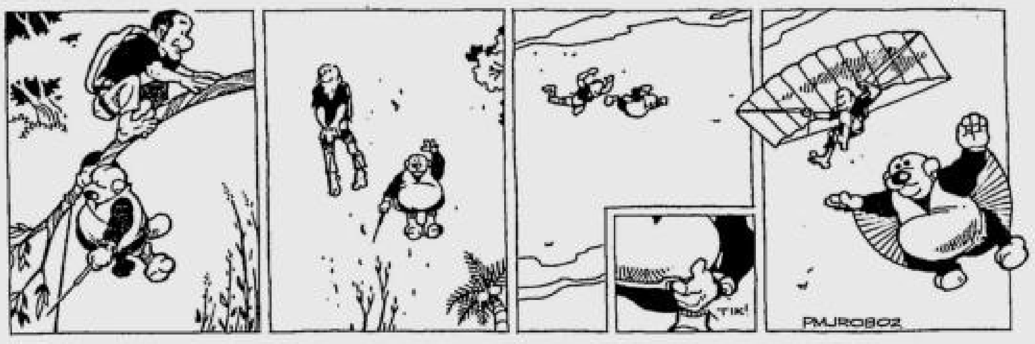
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GAME KA NA BA?
OK
GAME NA!
KANYA LANG YUNG MOMMY MO HINDE PA!

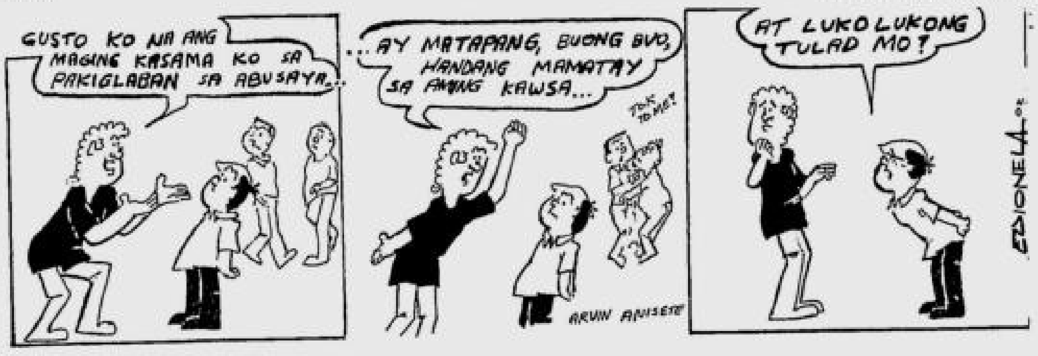
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TIK!
PMJR0802

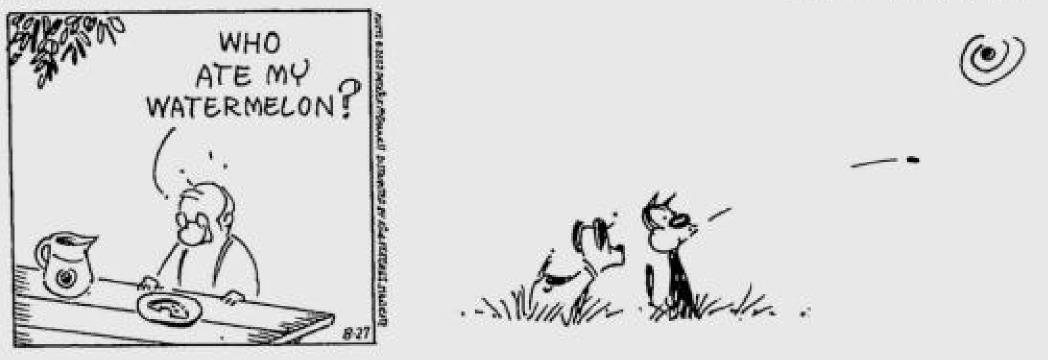
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


GUSTO KO NA ANG MAGING KASAMA KO SA PAKIGLABAN SA ABUSAYA...
...AY MATAPANG, BUONG BUO, HANDANG MAMATAY SA AMING KAWSA...
ARVIN ANISETE
AT LUKOLUKONG TULAD MO?
EDIONELA

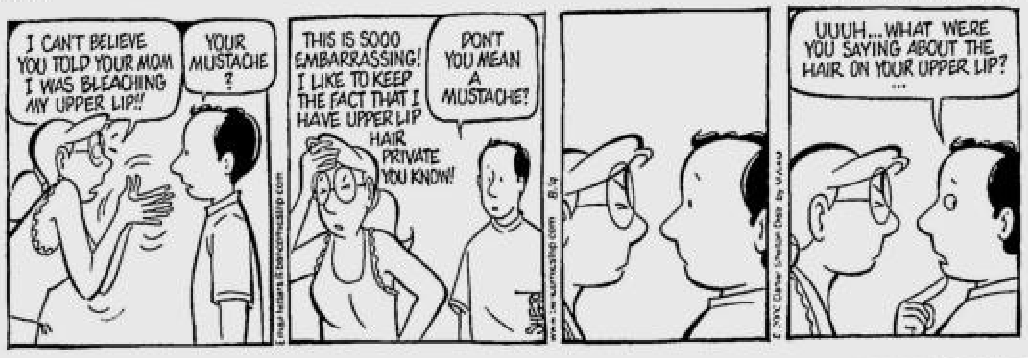
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHO ATE MY WATERMELON?
8-27

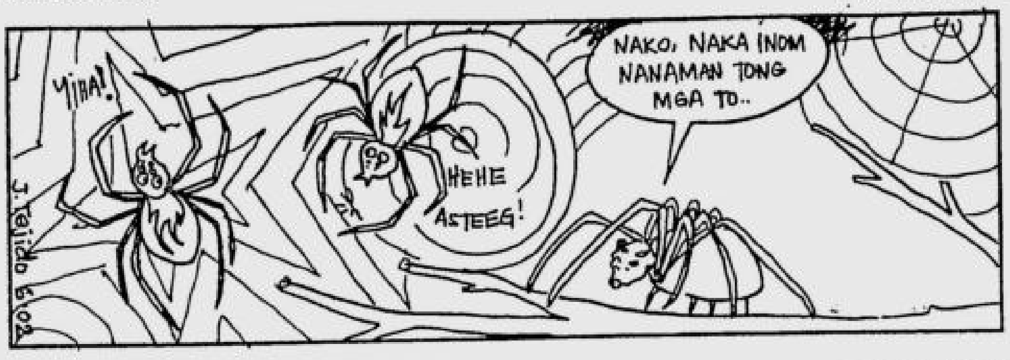
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU TOLD YOUR MOM I WAS BLEACHING MY UPPER LIP!!
YOUR MUSTACHE?
THIS IS SOOO EMBARRASSING! I LIKE TO KEEP THE FACT THAT I HAVE UPPER LIP HAIR PRIVATE YOU KNOW!
DON'T YOU MEAN A MUSTACHE?
UUUH... WHAT WERE YOU SAYING ABOUT THE HAIR ON YOUR UPPER LIP? ...

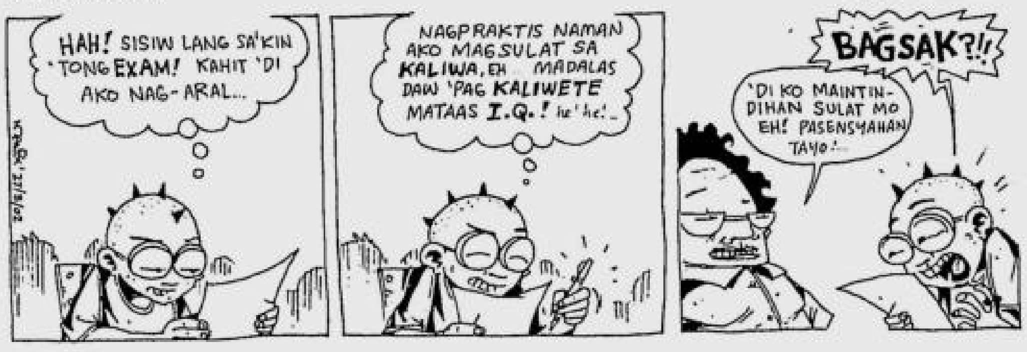
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


YIHA!
HEHE
ASTEEG!
NAKO, NAKA INOM NANAMAN TONG MGA TO..
J. Tejido 6/02

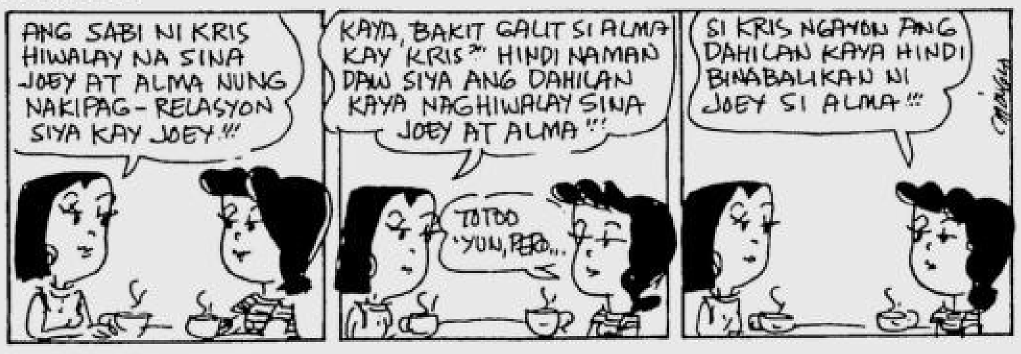
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HAH! SISIW LANG SA'KIN 'TONG EXAM! KAHIT 'DI AKO NAG-ARAL...
NAGPRAKTIS NAMAN AKO MAGSULAT SA KALIWA, EH MADALAS DAW 'PAG KALIWETE MATAAS I.Q.! he' he'!
BAGSAK?!!
'DI KO MAINTINDIHAN SULAT MO EH! PASENSYAHAN TAYO!

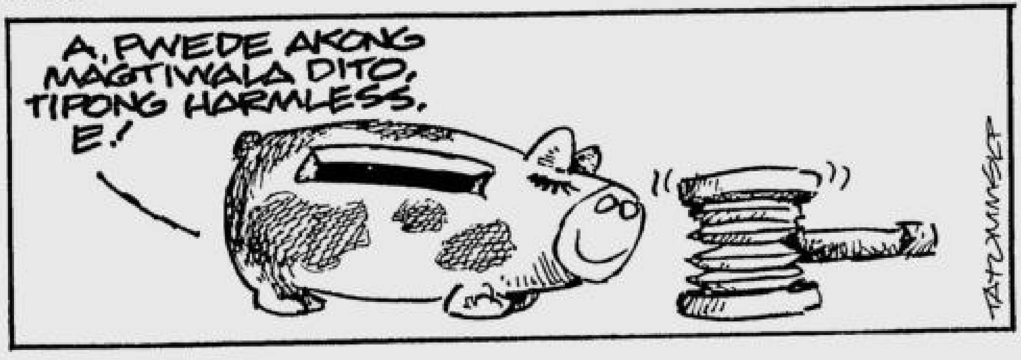
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

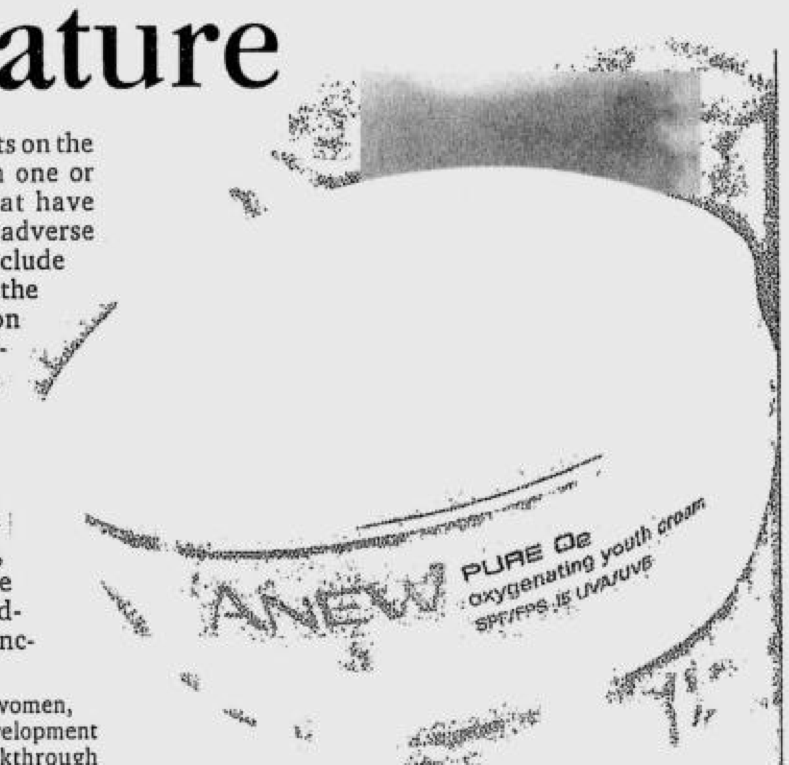

ANG SABI NI KRIS HIWALAY NA SINA JOEY AT ALMA NUNG NAKIPAG-RELASYON SIYA KAY JOEY!!!
KAYA, BAKIT GALIT SI ALMA KAY 'KRIS'?" HINDI NAMAN DAW SIYA ANG DAHILAN KAYA NAGHIWALAY SINA JOEY AT ALMA!!!
TOTOO 'YUN, PERO...
SI KRIS NGAYON ANG DAHILAN KAYA HINDI BINABALIKAN NI JOEY SI ALMA!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


A, PWEDE AKONG MAGTIWALA DITO, TIPONG HARMLESS, E!

Wake up your skin with nature



MANY cosmetic products on the market today contain one or more ingredients that have been documented to create adverse reactions. These reactions include dermatitis (inflammation of the skin), acne, hyperpigmentation and many other adverse effects. Product appearance, shelf life, and cost of materials are the main factors manufacturers will usually take into consideration when it comes to choosing ingredients. As a consumer, however, you should be aware of the contents of your skin care products and know what their functions are before purchasing.

Avon, the global company for women, prides itself in a research and development facility that comes up with breakthrough products that are both safe and effective. Its newest products, Avon Anew Biologie+ and Avon Anew Pure O2, tap natural ingredients to efficiently rejuvenate skin. Avon Skincare Laboratories harnesses the power of nature, merging it with technology.

Avon employs some of the world's leading scientists, who continue to define what "state of the art" means to skin care research. In addition to internal experts, the company has a network of renowned scientists affiliated with major universities in Europe, Asia, and North and South America. Not only does this collaboration allow Avon to maximize scientific resources across its beauty line, but, in the case of skin care—the most technologically driven beauty category—it also furthers understanding of skin biology and the specific needs of individual ethnic groups and skin types.

ANEW
BIOLOGIE+

Anti-aging

Avon Anew Biologie+ extracts the purest, most advanced active anti-aging ingredients found in nature. It has the Bio-plex blend composed of *neem*, a popular Indian herb which works with the body's own stress mechanisms to help protect against damaging stress factors. It also reduces the appearance of skin imperfections, including the appearance of fine lines and uneven skin tone. Another ingredient is pomegranate, which serves as an antioxidant used for daily skin protection. Danshen helps maintain firm, beautiful-looking skin, while grapeseed acts as a daily skin hydrator and strengthener. Anew Biologie+ also has iris florentina root, which helps minimize the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles.

Oxygen

Anew Pure O2 Oxygenating Youth Complex is a lighter than air gel-cream that helps skin breathe easier. It has the Energie-Cell System (patent-pending), which is composed of xymenic acid that helps deliver increased oxygen to cells and assists in carrying away dull impurities more efficiently. The patent-pending crape myrtle extract is a naturally derived ingredient that increases oxygen utilization of cells. Carnitine provides energy to the cells and helps the cells function more efficiently. Corn kernel extract increases the oxygen consumption of the cells. The improved delivery of oxygen to the skin cells, in essence, helps the skin breathe properly. Cells that have oxygen have the energy they need to work more efficiently like in young skin.

Beauty is a big part of what makes Avon. It is one of the largest manufacturers of cosmetics, fragrances and toiletries in the world. And you're probably as familiar with its brands as you are with Avon: Anew, Avon Color, Skin-So-Soft, and Women of Earth. With the blending of natural ingredients with technological breakthroughs, Avon takes beauty ideas to the next frontier with products for the health and well-being of customers.

OLEN Lim, Anna Tuano, Ella Mendoza, Aohra Feliciano, Claire Leonio and Rhea Kang Uyco

Great pampering treat

A WOMAN'S daily work grind, consisting of countless meetings, deadlines and endless phone calls, can be really stressful. But there are health spas and beauty salons that can help relieve, reduce or even eliminate stress and anxieties.

Realizing the need of women to relax and rejuvenate, Nivea recently treated beauty editors and writers from various newspapers and magazines to an invigorating day at The Spa, Acropolis. The idea was to give them a break, even for a short while, from the hustle and bustle of city life. Summit Events, organizer of the affair, decorated the venue with floating candles and flowers. New age music from Enya completed the relaxing ambience.

Nivea products were displayed, free for use, in all lavatories and women's locker room for guests and spa members to try.

The activity focused on pampering oneself to counter the daily pressures that take its toll on a person's outlook and skin. Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining a balance between inner and outer beauty, the day started off with a yoga session led by expert, Aohra "Wawa" Feliciano. She emphasized that yoga is beneficial to one's health since this unique exercise is a method and a system of physical, mental and spiritual development that unites the mind, body and spirit.

A hearty and healthy lunch then followed as the guests walked through the specially decorated staircase leading to the women's lounge. While the participants enjoyed their meal and quenched their thirst with a special concoction of cucumber and lemongrass juices, Nivea Visage brand manager Claire Leonio introduced their latest range of facial care products. She emphasized that Nivea has a complete product line that conforms to the Three-Step Daily Regimen on proper skin care. The three steps consist of cleansing, toning and moisturizing.

Daily Regimen
for Beautiful Skin
TONING

NIVEA'S Anna Tuano, Ricci Barrios of Woman Today and INQUIRER's Anne Jambora

The guests involved themselves in intimate conversations about beauty and skin care. "My favorite is the Nivea Facial Scrub (facial cleanser with micro-beads) because it easily removes dirt and oil that clogs my pores," stressed Olen Lim, model and image enhancement expert who hosted the affair. This was followed by a raffle draw wherein lucky winners had the chance to enjoy a shopping spree.

A soothing aromatherapy head and shoulder massage was the last pampering activity for the day. Guests came out of the women's locker room rejuvenated and with a glow on their faces as they brought home souvenir packages from Nivea.

Distributed nationwide by JDH (Philippines) Inc., Nivea products are available in leading department stores and drugstores nationwide.

PARTICIPANTS during the yoga session of Nivea Visage's pampering activity

Baby boomers' secrets to staying young

> The generation born between 1946 to 1964, the very same one that challenged authority and espoused doing your own thing, has adopted the habit of buying, eating and living healthy

CELEBRITIES in their 50s like Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone, Tommy Lee Jones and Harrison Ford (the latter recently voted by People Magazine as "the sexiest man alive"), Susan Sarandon, Goldie Hawn, Christie Brinkley, Diane Sawyer, Cybill Shepherd, Sally Field, etc., have become icons of American style. Baby boomers all, they have taken an active role in their health and wellness, not to mention finding personal growth in exploring life and all that it has to offer—for commitment and fulfillment. As Sarandon shares in the book, "Fifty Celebrate Fifty," at her age, she can be professional and domestic, creative and intelligent, patient and urgent.

More and more baby boomers are unraveling the secrets to staying young. They have spawned such businesses as spas, cosmetic surgery, natural foods and personal care products.

TWIGGY

SUSAN Sarandon

As the most educated and successful generation on record, baby boomers have learned to adapt and create big business for business retailers out to satisfy their every requirement and need. Along the way, their changing tastes and needs have also caused many products to drop in the market in favor of new and more promising or appealing finds.

Counter the radicals

In terms of food and "healthy" consumer products, the sprouting of natural products stores like Healthy Options attest to the rise in better-informed consumers. Touted as Asia's No. 1 health store, Healthy Options lends expert advice by always stressing that one can revamp one's diet and intake of supplements and discover several ways to counter the radicals. It offers a premium quality selection of supplements, as well as natural food products, including canned food items that contain phytochemicals, known to fight age-related diseases like cancer and arthritis.

It also makes available to customers other health-enhancing food and beverages lines, like its flavorsome non-dairy soy beverages, soy milk and soy smoothies that contain disease-fighting isoflavonoids. Soy beverages have become popular, not only for the soy protein's zero heart-damaging saturated fat and cholesterol but also for containing other nutrients like iron, calcium and B vitamins that older bodies require.

Healthy Options offers numerous other ways to disease-proof your lifestyle with its varied line of hair, dental hygiene, skin care products, memory and relaxation enhancers, heart-strengthening and energy-boosting supplements, plus many other product brands packaged by manufacturers, which conform to standards set by the US Food and Drug Administration.

JOSIE Natori

CHERYL Tiegs with twin sons Theo and Jaden

Healthy Options also empowers its customers to update themselves with health news and to distinguish real hope and potential from hype and plain commercial hoopla. No matter what your question is, the nutrition superstore will find a suitable information or products to help out. Although its present market is largely A-B, including the baby boomers who know what they want and are out to get the goods that will contribute to optimum health, Healthy Options is reaching out to offer its quality products and services even to the low-income market segment.

With two new outlets to serve a growing number of fitness-oriented people—one in Pampanga opened last July and another in SM Bicutan in November—the Filipino chain of one-stop shops for natural buys is fast realizing its dream of contributing to a health-conscious citizenry aware of what truly benefits their health.

An extreme but healthy approach to weight loss

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

"EVERYTHING in moderation" has been my personal health and fitness motto for over 25 years. I am the type of person who does not take well to rigid rules about diet and exercise. The rebel in me reacts violently if I am told that a specific food is off-limits. I prefer to eat everything, but I eat the unhealthy stuff only once in a while and in small quantities. I exercise five days a week and feel absolutely no guilt about resting on weekends. This middle-of-the-road approach works very well for me. It also works for other people who have successfully maintained their weight for many years.

However, the moderate approach is not for everyone. We are all psychologically different. While eating high-calorie food "once in a while" prevents me from going on an eating binge, it may make another person lose control and do the exact opposite. Just like some children who perform better in a school environment where they set their own pace of learning, other children need a highly structured system.

For those of you who need a more extreme approach to weight loss that is still physically and mentally healthy, you might be interested in the weight-loss program of Dr. Daniel Kirschenbaum, a behavior therapist and weight loss expert, who has written a book titled "The Nine Truths About Weight Loss."

Kirschenbaum has over 25 years experience and his program has been cited in professional journals like American Psychologist, Health Psychology and the International Journal of Obesity. Kirschenbaum also has firsthand experience with obesity. He lost weight 30 years ago and has kept it off ever since. His mother, who was also overweight, has maintained her weight loss for many years as well using his nine principles.

Your body will resist permanent weight loss

Kirschenbaum says that biological forces within us make our bodies resistant to weight loss and this is why the moderate approach won't work. He says only extreme levels of focus and consistency will get results. We are fighting, he explains, against biological survival mechanisms that have allowed the human race to stay alive through famines and other environmental disasters. These mechanisms include the ability to store fat as efficiently as possible and to lower the metabolic rate when food is not available, a predisposition toward binge eating, and a built-in preference for fatty and sweet foods.

> Maintaining your weight is easy as long as you don't let a lapse lead to relapse

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Biology is not your destiny

Our bodies might still be like those of our prehistoric ancestors, but the difference, Kirschenbaum stresses, is that we are smarter than our biology. We can use our brains to outwit our genes. This means we can learn to manage our weight problem just like a diabetic learns to manage his or her condition.

But first, Kirschenbaum says you have to accept that you cannot solve your weight-loss problems with temporary solutions like crash dieting or taking diet pills. Once you accept the painful truth that your body gains weight very easily and you have to take extraordinary lifestyle measures to keep the pounds away, then you will be successful.

Weight control is a manageable athletic challenge

Kirschenbaum compares the efforts of a weight controller to an athlete training for the gold medal. It is a serious endeavor that requires top priority. And just like an athlete who has to sacrifice time and energy to train for his sport, so too must a weight controller.

He says weight control may prove to be one of the greatest lifelong personal challenges that anyone can face, but that we have to look at it from the perspective that all personal changes are challenging. This is because "people usually have to struggle to maintain regimens of any kind that are different from what they are used to doing."

You will experience three stages to success

The three stages are Honeymoon, Frustration and Acceptance.

In the Honeymoon stage, you will be excited about making changes in your lifestyle, like eating low-fat food and exercising everyday.

In the Frustration stage, Kirschenbaum says you will start resenting the effort that is required for successful weight control. He writes: "People often think about going back to their old ways of eating and exercising. They seem to long for the old days." He calls it the "Why me?" stage. People start envying friends who can maintain their weight even if they eat fattening food and don't exercise as much.

Kirschenbaum describes the Acceptance stage as the time when people settle in for the long haul. He says they experience a peaceful sense of resolve about weight control. People who reach this stage say, "Who said life was fair? I see the challenge before me but I know it is something I can accomplish."

No one learns to master weight control in a straight line, Kirschenbaum notes. He says you will experience bumps on the road toward success but if you don't give up, you will eventually reach your goal.

You can eat very little fat and learn how to keep your hunger quiet

Kirschenbaum advocates a low-fat and low-sugar way of eating because he says that the less you have of fatty and sugary foods, the less you will crave for them. He generally recommends a fat intake of 20 percent of total calories or a simpler recommendation, he says, is to eat foods as low in fat as you can tolerate.

He has two rules, which he feels are useful for effective weight control. The "Almost Never" rule, meaning the types of food to avoid as much as possible, and the "Almost Always" rule, which are principles of eating to follow as much as possible.

The "Almost Never" foods are fried foods, desserts (other than fruit or very low-fat alternatives), high-fat lunch meats (salami, bologna), candy, regular salad dressing, high-fat cookies/brownies/cake, mayonnaise (except fat-free mayonnaise), cheese (other than no-fat or very low-fat cheese), high-fat ice cream and ice cream products, high-fat gravy and other high-fat sauces.

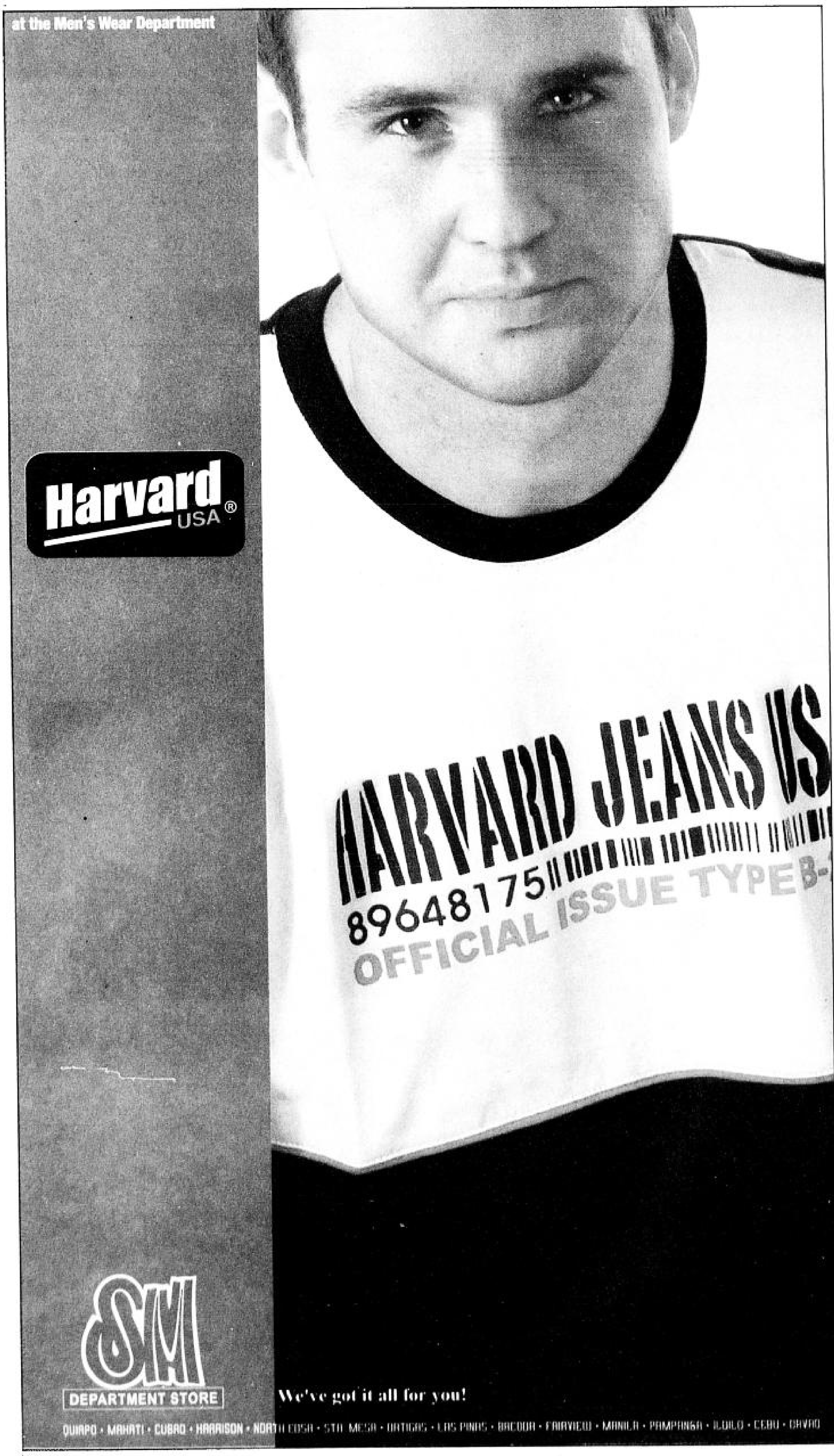
Kirschenbaum advises to "Almost Always Eat" the following: low-fat/low-sugar foods, low-fat/low-sugar snacks (popcorn, pretzels, fruits, rice cakes), grilled fish and fowl, vegetables, salads (dressing on the side, preferably low-calorie and low-fat), mustard or ketchup or barbecue sauce on sandwiches, spicy foods, salsa on practically everything, and pastas (with tomato sauces or plain).

He writes: "These guidelines may sound stringent, but unfortunately, your biology demands such stringencies. Successful weight-controllers follow these guidelines with tremendous consistency."

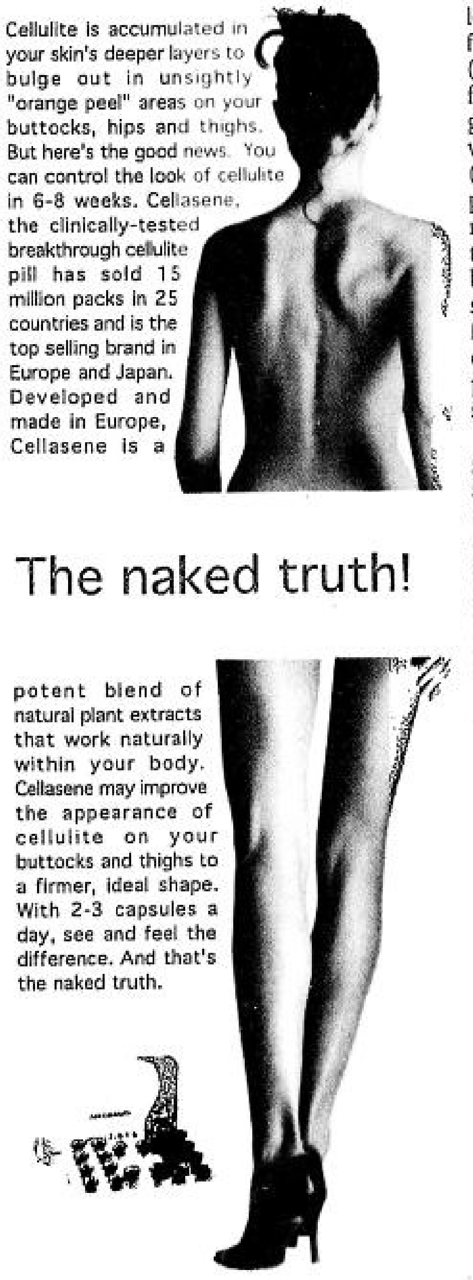
If you maintain a written record of your eating and exercising at least 75 percent of the time, you can manage the program successfully.

Kirschenbaum claims, "Self-monitoring is the single most important aspect of effective weight control" because it forces you to stay focused every day on what you eat and how you exercise. According to him, to successfully keep the pounds away, you have to embrace the concept that "everything counts." It's so easy to "forget" about the

AN EXTREME/ p.C3


at the Men's Wear Department

SM DEPARTMENT STORE
We've got it all for you!
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PINAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO


Cellulite is accumulated in your skin's deeper layers to bulge out in unsightly "orange peel" areas on your buttocks, hips and thighs. But here's the good news. You can control the look of cellulite in 6-8 weeks. Cellasene, the clinically-tested breakthrough cellulite pill has sold 15 million packs in 25 countries and is the top selling brand in Europe and Japan. Developed and made in Europe, Cellasene is a potent blend of natural plant extracts that work naturally within your body. Cellasene may improve the appearance of cellulite on your buttocks and thighs to a firmer, ideal shape. With 2-3 capsules a day, see and feel the difference. And that's the naked truth.
The naked truth!
Ask for Cellasene at Rustan's (Shangri-la, Cubao, Harrison Plaza), Mercury Drug and Watsons.
Call 817 1352 InfoText 0917 813 6885

Two videotapes do not show Abu Sabaya killed

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2

Erap: 'I was not a pauper when I entered politics'

By Volt Contreras

"I WAS not a pauper when I entered politics," deposed President Joseph Estrada said a day after the Sandiganbayan issued a freeze order on his assets.

Estrada said he had "apartments built in San Juan, Mandaluyong, Sta. Mesa and Quezon City, out of my

ERAP/A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

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- Anti-vendor campaign splits Metro mayors
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- NBI to summon ex-spy chief over Nida murder
  NEWS/ A4

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Wednesday, August 28, 2002 ★★ 60 pages / 5 sections / vol.17 / no. 261 P15 website: www.inq7.net

'Pentagon' cops cleared

Report to GMA details charges

By Rocky Nazareno and Martin Marfil

THEY were implicated, then suspended and then—finally—retained and promoted.

Two police colonels were named in confidential reports of the Philippine National Police in January as protectors of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang and its slain leader Faisal Marohombsar.

In a special report to the President, Chief Supt. Eduardo S. Matillano, Central Mindanao police director, pinpointed Superintendents Willie Marohombsar Dangane and Efren Alquizar as reportedly involved in the "kidnap-for-ransom activities of the dreaded Pentagon KFR Group."

Among other findings, Matillano's report implicated the officers in the abduction of Canadian national Pierre Belanger. At the time of the report, Dangane was head of Task Force Sanlahi-Pentagon, the anti-kidnap task force for Mindanao, while Alquizar was chief of the Regional Anti-Narcotics Unit (Ranu) in Region 12.

In February, the INQUIRER reported that Dangane and Alquizar were suspended, pending investigation of their alleged criminal links.

But since then, INQUIRER sources said, the two officers have been cleared of the Belanger kidnapping. Dangane has been promoted to police dir-

PENTAGON/A21

BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

SEA OF POVERTY

The 10-day World Summit on Sustainable Development, the largest in UN history ongoing at Johannesburg, South Africa, addresses global environment concerns including the degradation of Filipinos feasting on garbage. As in most Third World countries, the country has yet to devise a proper waste disposal system.

2 videos do not show Sabaya killed

By Carlito Pablo and Arlyn de la Cruz, *Contributor*

THERE are two videotapes of the encounter that reportedly killed Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya.

But there is only one clear and undisputed conclusion that can be drawn from viewing the tapes: that Sabaya was present during the assault as claimed by the military. But the tapes do not show that he was killed. The faces of all the persons on the tapes were indistinguishable.

The INQUIRER viewed the videotape taken by a US military spy plane of the June 21 sea encounter between government troops and a band of seven Abu Sayyaf men led by Abu Sabaya.

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone yesterday reiterated his government would not show the video to the public because "we never release intelligence reports."

But Ricciardone said that the video "was shown to the senior officers of your government" and that "we (US) stand" on accounts that Sabaya was killed.

Sources told the INQUIRER that the tape was shown to President

2 VIDEOS/ A21

RP protests ill treatment of Filipinos by Malaysia

By Norman Bordadora and Cynthia D. Balana

FINALLY, a diplomatic protest.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople yesterday filed the protest with Malaysia for the harsh treatment of Filipinos during a crackdown against illegal immigrants.

Ople handed the note verbale to Malaysian Ambassador Mohammad Noor Taufik at a meeting in the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

The protest came after Filipino children were reported to have died in holding areas crammed with hundreds of illegal immigrants awaiting deportation from the eastern Malaysian state of Sabah.

Taufik, however, said in an interview after his meeting with Ople that he had yet to receive any formal diplomatic protest

RP/ A21

Hope maker sees no hope for country, blames politics

LUCIO TAN: Down in the dumps

By Clarissa Batino

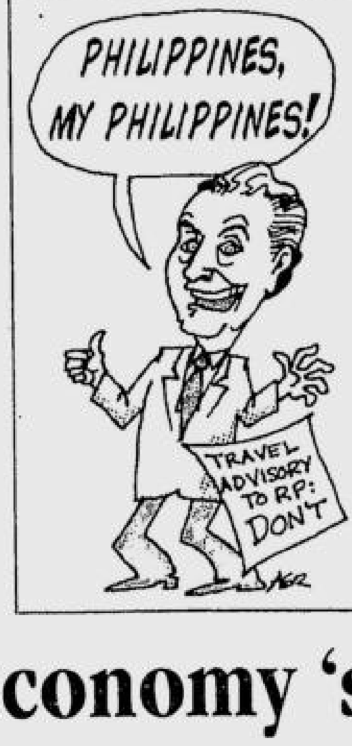
NO GROWTH for the next 100 years. A foreign exchange rate of P120 to the dollar in the next four to six years. And no real national leader for at least the next three generations.

Billionaire tycoon Lucio Tan read his own version of the country's fortune cookie on Monday night, and it foretold nothing but bad news.

"I think this country would continue to sleep in the next 100 years. We cannot grow because of politics, politics and politics. Our leader is not yet produced. Maybe in the next century, maybe three generations more," said Tan in impromptu remarks delivered in halting English.

Tan, the man who rose from poverty to build a billion-dollar fortune selling tobacco, including Hope cigarettes, and liquor and eventually expanding to banking and airline services, is the last person one would expect to have given up hope in the country that gave him so

HOPE/A20



US loves RP, says Ricciardone

By Norman Bordadora

IT'S what you call a "love-hate" relationship.

Last month, the US state department advised Americans to be careful when traveling in the Philippines because of "kidnappings, bombings and other violent incidents."

As if that wasn't irritating enough for its ally, US Ambassador Frank

US/A21

GMA: Pass 2 bills to show economy 'still functioning'

By Juliet Javellana

THE PRESIDENT has a message for Congress: Pass two bills in two weeks.

President Macapagal-Arroyo told a meeting of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council that the passage of a bill to privatize state transmission lines and another providing tax incentives to asset management firms before Congress breaks for recess on Sept. 7 would show that the country was still a "functioning economy."

Ms Macapagal said the two bills would help plug the country's widening budget deficit and attract investors. ***(See related story in Business, B4.)***

The special purpose asset vehicle (SPAV) and Transco bills are pending in the Senate. The House passed the SPAV bill in April and is set to approve the Transco bill today.

At the same meeting, a Congressional Planning and Budget Department report warned the government that the budget deficit could spiral out of control.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., who had commissioned the report, said the budget deficit could widen to as much as P160 billion (or $3.2 billion at an exchange rate of P50 to the dollar) by yearend.

In the first seven months of the year, the country's budget deficit already overshot the full-year target of P130 billion, reaching P133.1 billion.

GMA/ A6

BI broke, closing shop by October if...

By Blanche Rivera

NO MONEY, no BI.

The Bureau of Immigration will stop operations by October if the government fails to supplement the agency's budget, Commissioner Andrea Domingo said yesterday. Domingo said the bureau would have no money left after September because its appropriation for the last quarter of the year will be used to pay its electric, water and telephone bills.

The agency is deep in debt to utility firms.

"We have told them from the start: we can't live on the budget that they are giving us for this year," Domingo told the INQUIRER in an interview at the BI main office, which is now lacking telephone lines and supplies.

"We are not a liability; we generate revenues for the government. Since we're earning, we can maximize our revenue generation if the government would support us a little,"

BI/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country have partly cloudy to cloudy skies.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/28/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONT PAGE

Ex-Customs chief goes to BIR

By Clarissa S. Batino

MALACAÑANG yesterday appointed a soldier and a former customs commissioner "with people skills" to take over the Bureau of Internal Revenue amid serious worries over a ballooning budget deficit mainly caused by weak revenue collection.

Guillermo Parayno, who is to report to his new post today, has vowed to improve the BIR's collection, plug leakages in the tax system and go after tax evaders.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said President Macapagal-Arroyo chose Parayno to replace resigned BIR commissioner Rene Bañez because of his "good track record" at the customs bureau which Parayno headed in the mid-1990s during the economic boom years of the Ramos administration.

"It is expected that Mr. Parayno will be able to institute reforms and at the same time address the revenue collection problem," Bunye said in a press briefing.

"The BIR is different from Customs, but I will do my best," said Parayno who takes over amid dwindling revenues and accusations of widespread corruption and incompetence within the BIR.

Bañez resigned last week just days before the government announced that the budget deficit had reached P133 billion, surpassing the full-year target of P130 billion. Low tax collection was mainly to blame.

Bañez, however, said he was resigning because of resistance to change within the BIR, hinting that corrupt and inept tax collectors were rebelling against an anti-graft campaign.

Already, some quarters have tagged Parayno, who has a master's degree in business management from the Asian Institute of Management and is a member of Class 1970 of the Philippine Military Academy, as the BIR's savior.

Parayno is expected to bring to the bureau his expertise with systems, skills with people and firm, military-style decision-making.

"He has the skills, the integrity and the firmness given his military background and all these he could bring to the BIR, especially at this time," said a ranking government official.

Parayno maintains a lucrative private consulting practice, so that it was not easy convincing him to return to government service, a government source said. The BIR top job pays only P30,000 a month.

"It was a difficult decision to accept the position that was offered. But my wife said she would be supportive even if I take a pay cut. It is hard to turn my back on the call of the country," Parayno told reporters on the eve of his oath-taking.

Donald Dee, president of the Employers Confederation of the Phils. and vice chair of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said Parayno is the ideal person to lead the BIR. ***With a report from Carlito Pablo***

Solon details rap vs Bañez in slide show

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

HOW can 13,000 Bureau of Internal Revenue employees be wrong and only resigned BIR commissioner Rene Bañez right?

Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo yesterday asked the question in a second privilege speech, complete with slide show, accusing Bañez of allegedly helping a conglomerate to evade paying taxes.

Saludo alleged that Bañez had conspired with his former employer, Manuel Pangilinan, and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Smart Communications and Metro Pacific Corp. to defraud the government of P10 billion in taxes.

Another tax scam was exposed in a separate privilege speech yesterday by Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri.

Zubiri charged that some P20 million in value added taxes for 2001 paid by the Tequila Joe and California Pizza Kitchen restaurants were diverted to a fictitious account at the United Coconut Planters Bank instead of being remitted to the government.

Zubiri, who chairs the House legislative franchises committee, is co-owner of the two restaurants.

Saludo said Bañez was not "the knight in shining armor that he wanted us to believe but a plunderer and economic saboteur of the first order who should instead be placed behind bars."

He noted that Bañez was president and chief executive officer of Smart Communications and vice president of Metro Pacific before being appointed BIR commissioner.

In a press statement, Metro Pacific said Saludo's charges were "an outrageous rehash of false claims that had already been successfully and agreeably resolved through the courts."

"Metro Pacific finds it regrettable that considerable attention is being wrongly focused on matters that have been long since resolved and which were nonetheless conducted with the highest degree of ethical behavior," the statement said.

Saludo said the tax scam started when the Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., a subsidiary of MPC, filed 19 tax refund cases worth P6 billion with the BIR.

One of the claims worth P15 million was denied by the BIR when Bañez was not yet commissioner but FBDC won an appeal with the Court of Tax Appeals.

Saludo said Bañez failed to appeal the CTA decision, thus losing the case, when he became BIR chief. He said this set a precedent for the 18 other cases, causing a loss of P6 billion to the government.

Saludo said Bañez should also be held liable for economic sabotage in the sale of Fort Bonifacio land worth P71.2 billion. He said the FBDC was liable to pay P1.18 billion in documentary stamp taxes but the Bases Conversion Development Authority assumed the amount.

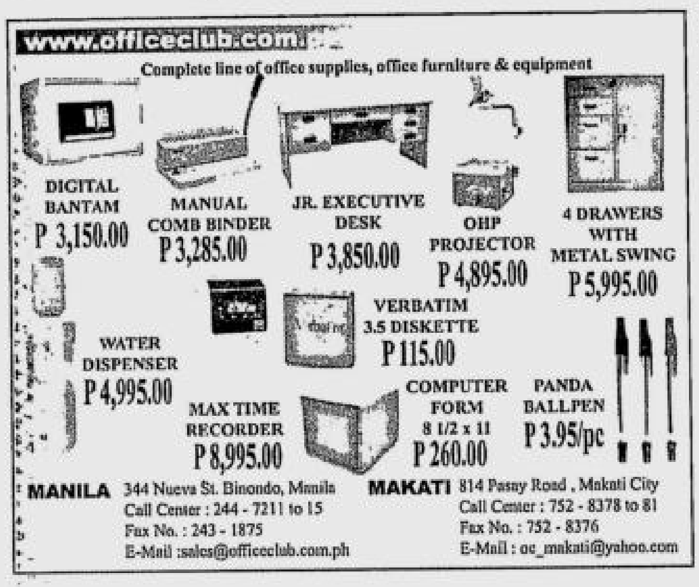
He said Bañez also used his position in reducing the zonal valuation of Fort Bonifacio land from P100,000 per square meter to P35,000, resulting in huge losses to the government.

Caluag, 83

VICENTE G. Caluag Jr. of Guiguinto, Bulacan, former Bureau of Internal Revenue regional director, died on Saturday. He was 83.

He is survived by his wife, Catalina "Nena" Medalla-Caluag, children Edgar and Norie, Marlyn and Florante Llana, Edwin and Luz, Vicente and Joy; and grandchildren

His remains lie at Funeraria Paz in Quezon City. Interment will be on Sunday at the Guiguinto Catholic Cemetery after the 10 a.m. Mass .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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that decisions/resolutions were promulgated by the Honorable Board in the following cases on the date indicated:

DARAB Case No.	Title	Date Promulgated
6153 (Decision)	Paquito Ubanos vs. Jose Lacson et al.	June 26, 2000
6941 (Resolution)	Danilo Chua vs. Antonio Zapra et al.	January 30, 2002

Counsels and parties to these cases, particularly the following persons:

DARAB Case No.	Party/Counsel	Last known Address
6153	Jose Lacson	Brgy. Cadiz Viejo, Cadiz City, Negros Occidental
	Rolando Laguna	Brgy. Cadiz Viejo, Cadiz City, Negros Occidental
6941	Atty. Romulo Gorospe	Guimba, Nueva Ecija

are hereby advised to get a copy of the decision from the DARAB Secretariat, DAR Adjudication Board, Diliman, Quezon City. After the lapse of thirty (30) days from the date of posting of this notice, without any Motion for Reconsideration or Petition for Review being filed an Entry of Judgment shall be made and the decision on these cases shall become final and executory.

August 26, 2002, Diliman, Quezon City

Acting Executive Director
DARAB Secretariat

August 28 & September 4, 2002 – Inquirer

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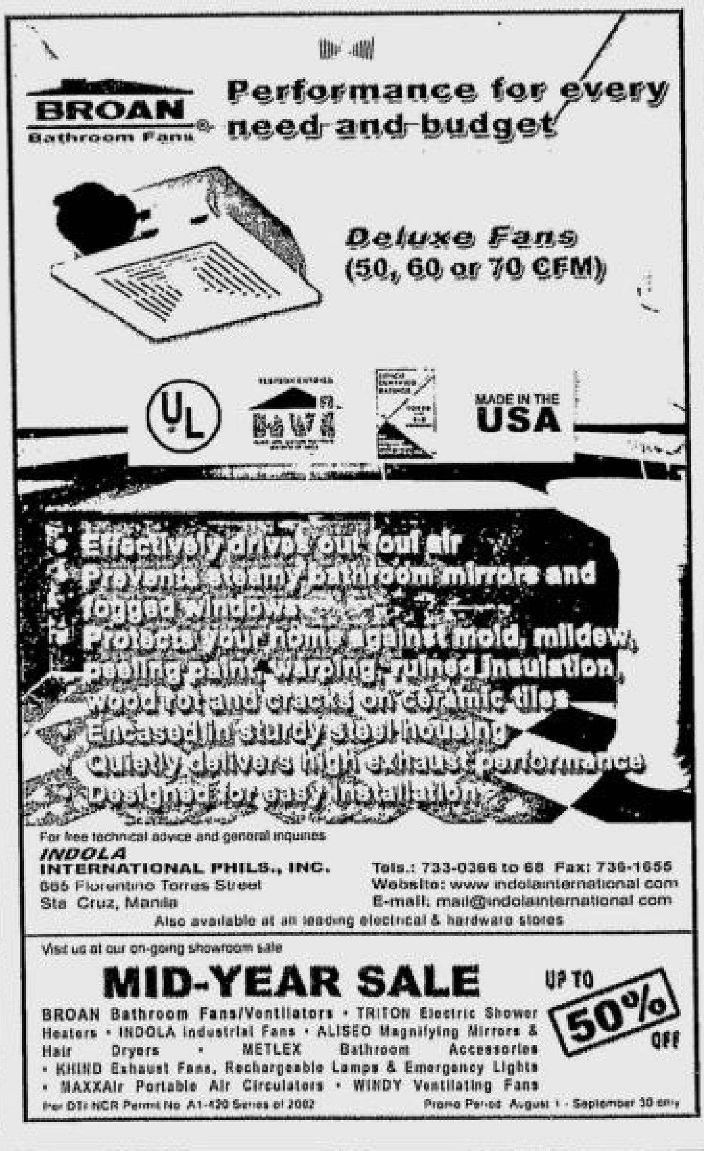
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Ms. Ma. Loreto R. Santos, Investor Relations, Globe Telecom, Inc., 2/F Globe Telecom Plaza, Pioneer Corner, Madison Street, 1552 Mandaluyong City, Philippines (Tel: 632-730-2820).

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HIGH FIVE
Sen. Manny Villar exchanges a high five with new Senate Pro Tempore Juan Flavier, who took over the position once held by Villar. Villar relinquished the post, along with his chairmanship of the committee on food and agriculture. He is now chair of the committees on finance and on foreign relations.

DepEd union, new chief hit it off well

By Donna S. Cueto

IT was getting-to-know-you day, and a rosy one.

During his first visit yesterday, newly appointed Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus won the hearts of the employees, including members of the union that had pushed for the ouster of former DepEd chief Raul Roco.

De Jesus, president of the Far Eastern University (FEU), said he meant to continue the reforms instituted by Roco and his predecessor Andrew Gonzalez.

From the start of the meeting with employees at the department's main social hall, De Jesus made it clear that he was Roco's "good friend."

The employees asked if the new chief would make himself available for dialogues, saying Roco would not talk to the rank-and-file.

"I'm talking with you right now," De Jesus replied.

He said he was particularly interested in continuing the Basic Education Curriculum reforms started by Gonzalez and Roco.

Apart from this, De Jesus did not make any announcements regarding his plans for the department.

"I won't make any diagnosis without seeing the patient," he explained, "(because I won't) make any promises I can't keep."

De Jesus said he was "carefully," reading a book that Gonzalez had written about his short DepEd stint.

He had read the book before, De Jesus said, but he started reading it again, "more intently," after his appointment.

The new secretary said he believed Gonzalez's contention that there were still a lot of good and sincere people in government.

This drew a big applause from his audience.

He would start work at the DepEd on Sept. 16, De Jesus said, because he was still wrapping up work at the FEU, which is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee soon.

Roco's nemesis, the DepEd Central Office Union, promised De Jesus its full cooperation. Union president Domingo Alidon said his group hoped to have "a harmonious relationship" with the new chief.

De Jesus first met at 10 a.m. with DepEd undersecretaries Fe Hidalgo and Ramon Bacani, assistant secretaries and bureau and division directors, at the conference hall of the Office of the Secretary. Afterwards, he went down to the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, which was packed with employees.

He obviously made a good impression.

Deputy director Alice Panares of the National Educators' Academy of the Philippines (NEAP) said De Jesus was highly regarded in education circles, since he had a solid background in education.

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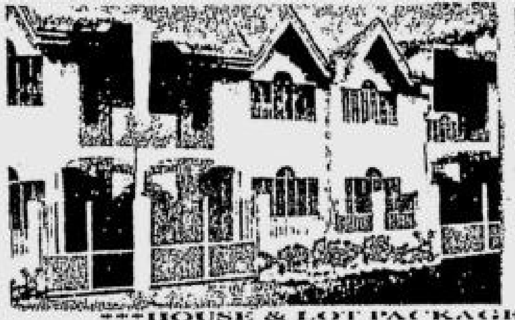

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NBI to summon former spy chief on Nida slay

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has summoned for questioning retired military intelligence chief Gen. Galileo Kintanar in the Nida Blanca murder case.

This developed after a new witness, identified as a trusted aide (*katiwala*) of Kintanar's, admitted placing Blanca under surveillance one week before she was killed together with self-confessed killer Philip Medel Jr. and another man.

"General Kintanar was subpoenaed by investigators but since he was not accompanied by his lawyers when he came here (Monday), he will return on Friday to give his (sworn) statement," NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco told reporters yesterday.

Kintanar is a former chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp).

The NBI yesterday identified one of the John Does charged with murder in the Blanca case as engineer Vicente "Dodong" Polinar.

Polinar was linked to the case by Alfredo "Aldo" Rodriguez, a security guard and Kintanar's *katiwala*.

In a sworn statement, Rodriguez said Polinar had bought the old Mitsubishi Galant that they used to track Blanca's movements "a week" before her murder.

Polinar is at large and believed to be in Bukidnon with the Galant.

Rodriguez has turned state witness. An NBI source said Rodriguez approached the bureau after somebody tried to hack him to death a few months ago.

The source said a case has been filed against Rodriguez's assailant but the NBI is not sure if the attack was related to the Blanca case.

Kintanar's name has come up repeatedly in the Blanca case. Recently a witness complained the general's men were harassing him.

Security guard Rogelio Salutin said he had to go into hiding earlier this month after two armed men identified with Kintanar went to his apartment looking for him.

Salutin was the security guard who claimed to have seen principal suspect Rod Lauren Strunk, Blanca's husband, with Medel at an apartment owned by Kintanar.

Kintanar's name first surfaced last year because he allegedly owned the Quezon City apartment Medel was living in.

His name bobbed up again this year after witnesses retired Army Maj. Pedro Pates Jr. and Leonilo Gonzaga testified they heard a Col. Benny Letrondo suggest during a meeting at Kintanar's home that they think of "effective damage control" methods to keep Kintanar's name out of the Blanca murder case.

Kintanar has denied having anything to do with the murder.

He has denied knowing Strunk or Blanca but admitted meeting Medel in the course of his stint as military intelligence chief.

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NEXT AFP CHIEF

Palace screening top generals

By Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG is carefully reviewing the qualifications of six top-ranking generals, in view of the scheduled retirement of Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Roy Cimatu on Sept. 1.

The shortlist is composed of Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya, AFP deputy chief of staff; Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, vice chief of staff; Lt. Gen. Dionisio Santiago, commander of the Army; Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, Air Force chief; Vice Admiral Victorino Hingco, Navy flag officer-in-command; and Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, AFP Southern Command chief.

A source said President Macapagal was sticking to her original plan of naming a new AFP chief on Sept. 1, and that the appointee would take his oath on Sept. 4.

The President earlier said that while Cimatu had proven to be a competent military chief, she had no choice but to follow military tradition and retire him.

Cimatu was supposed to retire last July 4 but his term was extended for two months. Ms Macapagal said military tradition frowned on second extensions.

Military observers said Abaya, a graduate of the West Point Military Academy in the United States, was the dark horse in the race.

All the five other contenders were set to retire either this year or early next year, when they reached the compulsory retirement age of 56, the observers said.

Abaya would not retire until October 2004, they noted, and this afforded him enough time to implement reforms and programs in the AFP. But they also said Santiago seemed to have the edge because of his proven loyalty to Malacañang.

Trained in the Special Forces, Santiago was the first commander of the elite anti-coup Task Force Libra, which put down the May 1, 2001 rebellion of deposed President Joseph Estrada's supporters.

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Biazon: Senate report on Abu may not pass

By Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Sixteen senators have raised serious reservations about the Senate report recommending the courts martial of three military officers for the bungled operation against the Abu Sayyaf in Lamitan, Basilan, last year, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said here Tuesday.

Biazon was referring to the draft report signed by 20 members of the Senate committees on national defense and security, and on justice and human rights, which endorsed the courts martial of Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, Col. Jovenal Narcise and Maj. Eliseo Campued.

The report—which charged the three Army officers with colluding with the Abu Sayyaf—"will not be adopted on the Senate floor," said Biazon, vice chair of the defense committee.

He said there was "strong circumstantial evidence" the three officials had allowed the Abu Sayyaf to escape the tight military cordon around the Dr. Jose Ma. Torres Memorial Hospital in Lamitan on June 2 last year.

The bandits managed to slip away with 20 hostages, including three Americans, whom they had abducted on May 27, 2001 from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan.

Biazon said the Senate report failed to consider evidence and testimony that traced the Lamitan military foul-up to Malacañang itself.

He said that instead of a "military-bandit collusion," the Senate should consider the possibility that the military was following an undisclosed government policy allowing ransom negotiations to continue in order to secure the release of "as many hostages as possible."

Cop chief slain in NPA ambush

DUMAGUETE CITY—A town police chief and his driver were killed yesterday and another policeman injured seriously after they were ambushed by suspected New People's Army guerrillas in Sitio Matuog, Barangay Basak, Guihulgan, Negros Oriental, 117 km north of this city.

Killed were Senior Insp. Leopito Gallego, the police chief of Vallehermoso town, and his driver, policeman Cipriano Saludes.

Another policeman, Celo Cupta, was seriously injured and was fighting for his life in a hospital here.

Gallego and the two policemen were driving to Dumaguete in a police jeep at about 3:15 p.m. yesterday when about 40 heavily armed men attacked them in the sparsely populated stretch of highway along Sitio Matuog.

In a separate incident in Sorsogon province, a communist guerrilla leader and two of his men were captured in a weekend raid on a rebel hideout, the military reported.

Rolando Mustasa, said to head a local NPA command, Edwin Bustamante and Jose Robrigado were undergoing interrogation after their arrest on Sunday.

No other details of the raid were given, but the Armed Forces said it occurred simultaneously with a military offensive against the NPA on Rizal province, in which 10 guerrillas were killed. ***Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau, and AFP***

Troops kill Abu in clash

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Government troops clashed with Muslim guerrillas holding three Indonesians hostage on Jolo island, killing one rebel but finding no sign of their captives, the military said on Tuesday.

The government forces suffered no casualties in the encounter on Monday in a mountain village on Jolo, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina told reporters.

"There were no sightings of the hostages during the encounter," Carolina added.

The three hostages were among four Indonesian crewmen of a Singaporean-owned tugboat who were abducted by Filipino pirates on June 17 as their vessel was passing by Jolo. One of the Indonesians managed to escape.

The military said the kidnappers handed their captives over to the Abu Sayyaf group after negotiations for their release bogged down.

At the same time, relatives of the four women Jehovah's Witnesses being held hostage by another gang linked to the Abu Sayyaf have urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to call off any military rescue operation so as not to endanger the lives of their kin.

The women were among eight members of the Christian group abducted on Aug. 20. The kidnappers freed two captives who turned out to be Muslims and beheaded two others who were male preachers.

"We hope she would call off the operation because that would endanger the lives of the hostages," said Isni Patrimonio, 57, grandmother of hostage Nori Bendijo. ***Reuters, with a report from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

BEHAVE, OR ELSE…

Solons cry blackmail over 'pork'

By Juliet L. Javellana

MALACAÑANG was using the pork barrel to silence the opposition, the House minority said yesterday.

"There was a threat that if we did not behave, the last quarter (fund release) would be the last for us," House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said a day after Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin met with the 20-strong minority.

Boncodin first met with the House majority on Monday to explain the delay in the release of the pork barrel, officially known as Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF).

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., who attended Boncodin's meeting with the minority later on the same day, has reportedly said there was no such threat.

Irked, Padilla and Deputy Minority Leader Rolex Suplico revealed an offer made (not by Boncodin) during the discussion, for the minority to meet with President Macapagal. This, Padilla insisted, was "a direct instruction" from the President to haul the opposition to Malacañang.

"We don't want to (queue) up and beg for the release of money that Congress has allocated for our districts," Suplico said. The Macapagal administration was being "vindictive," he added.

During their meeting with Boncodin, Suplico said, he personally asked for an assurance that the opposition was not targeted for political persecution via the pork barrel.

He said Boncodin merely smiled.

Another opposition congressman, who did not want to be named, said the spouses of opposition legislators had been invited to Malacañang as well.

"It is a divide-and-rule tactic," the congressman said.

Prayers, texting will continue, Pope or no Pope

By Norman Bordadora

AS A GIFT to Pope John Paul II, former President Corazon Aquino yesterday vowed to continue her Prayer Power campaign for the success of the 4th World Meeting of Families in January 2003.

The Pope, who was to lead the international celebration in Manila, recently cancelled his trip to the Philippines presumably on account of failing health.

For weeks, Aquino has been doing the rounds of schools and churches in Metro Manila, asking families to consecrate themselves to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in time for the event.

Because the Pontiff could not make it, Aquino spokesperson Lourdes Siytangco told the INQUIRER, the ex-President believed she should work harder to help ensure the success of the spiritual congress.

Organizers admitted Monday that the absence of the Pope, who is afflicted with arthritis and Parkinson's Disease, could affect attendance at the event.

The Pope has reportedly named Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, head of the Vatican's Office on the Family, as envoy.

In addition to her metro campaign, Aquino has scheduled tours of parishes and private and public schools in Cebu and Pampanga.

The good news is, the ex-President would be getting ample help from a trusty, mobile-phone wielding army.

Cellular service providers Globe Telecom Inc. and Smart Communications Inc. assured their subscribers that the text-based activities launched for the event were still pushing through.

These included Smart's "Light 4M Family Candles" and "Lolek Trivia Challenge," and Globe's "Rally Families for the Pope" and "Unscramble Trivia Quiz" under its "Vatican Texter" drive. ***With Abigail Ho***

Japanese pa, son commit suicide

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Two Japanese nationals, a father and his son, were found dead in their room at the Cebu Marriott Hotel on Monday—an apparent double suicide—after failing to pay their hotel bills.

Police investigators ruled out foul play in the deaths of Akihiro Owa, 77, and his son Masaaki, 41, because there was no sign of a struggle in the room and the two had no other marks except on their necks.

Cebu City Police homicide section head Chief Insp. Arestides Macatangay said the bodies were discovered by hotel personnel at around 2 p.m. inside the closet of Room 1016.

Front desk officer Jun Justo said the two had nylon cords tied around their necks.

Dr. Nestor Satur, PNP medico-legal officer, said asphyxia by hanging was the cause of their deaths.

Satur estimated the two had died between 10 and 11 a.m.

Justo said the two were last seen in the hotel lobby between 10 and 10:30 a.m.

Macatangay said the Japanese nationals had more than half a million pesos in unsettled hotel bills since they checked in on June 7.

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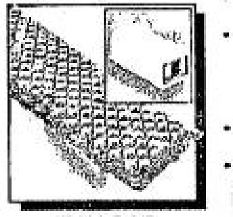

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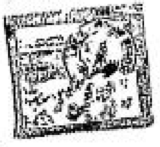

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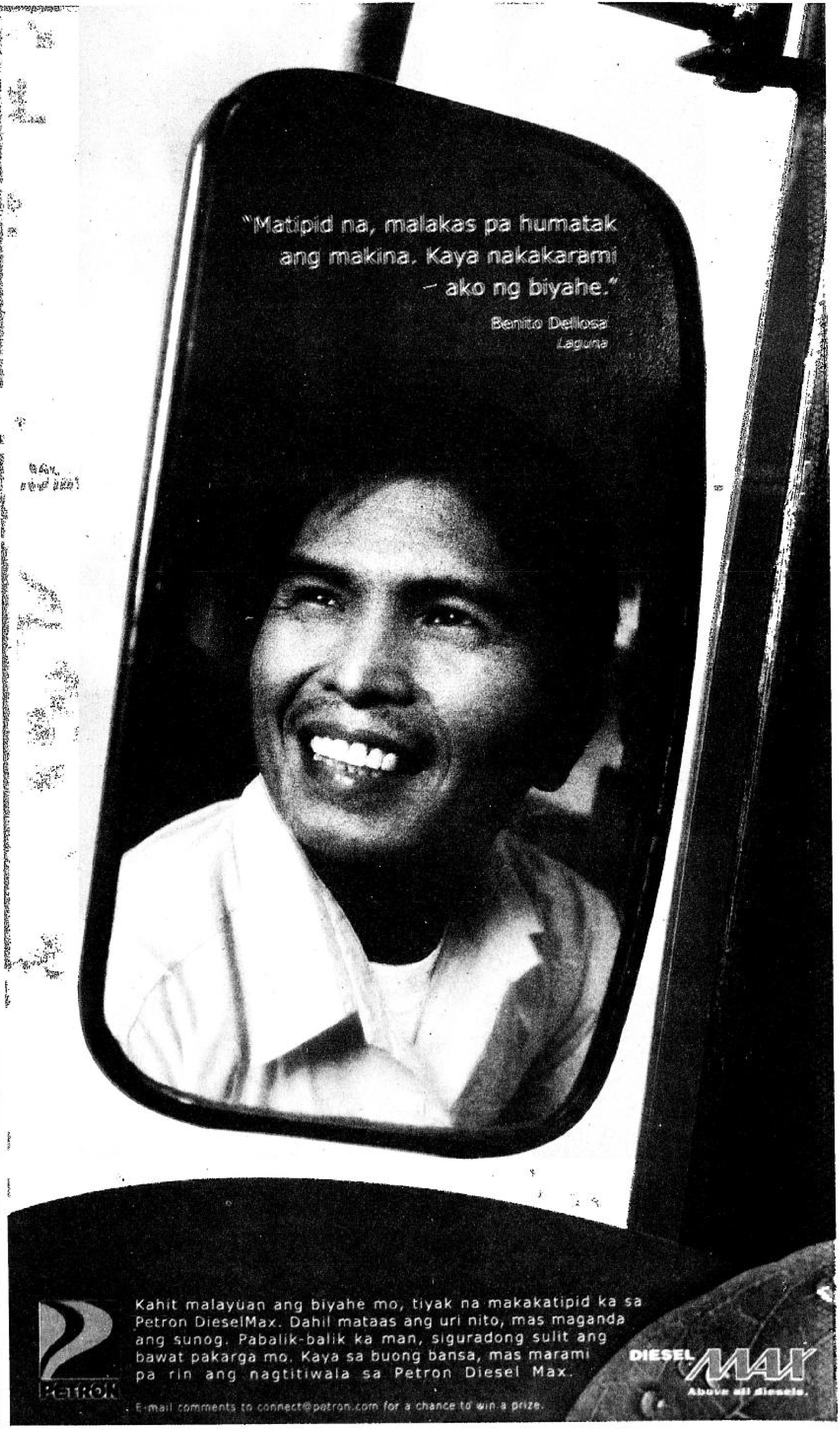
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BI closing shop by October if...

From page A1

Domingo said.

The BI has a budget of about P221 million, down from some P450 million last year. Malacañang disallowed the agency from spending a portion of its collection this year.

The Department of Budget and Management has already agreed to release the agency's remaining P12-million allocation, which is for maintenance and operating expenses, within the month.

Under the new DBM policy, the budget of government agencies are released on a schedule, but BI budget officers in a meeting with DBM representatives on Monday sought an early release of the last-quarter appropriation.

Elvira Presado, acting chief of the BI finance and management division, said that the P12 million that the bureau would receive is just enough to pay the pending bills, which include phone bills reaching at least P600,000, supplies bought on loans amounting to around P1 million, and water and electricity bills of around P2 million.

There are also numerous reimbursements for cash advances, rentals, travel expenses, purchase and job orders, fidelity bond, subsistence allowance, gasoline allowances, maintenance of buildings and vehicles, and even cell cards and newspaper subscriptions.

Not the first time

Presado said that the BI might close shop again as it did shortly in 1998 when the power and water supply were cut because of non-payment.

John Tugade, acting chief of the property division, said that while the agency still had official forms in stock, such as official receipts, alien certificates of registration and certificates of residence, operations could not continue if power were cut.

DOMINGO: Bills piling up

The computerization of the BI main office and its offices in the subports is already under way, and the absence of power and the lack of printer ink will hamper the processing of transactions.

Some 20,000 to 50,000 foreigners transact business with the BI every quarter.

The bureau has already registered a collection of around P700 million as of this month. The target set by the DBM this year is P1.1 billion, which Domingo said would be easily met if operations continued.

"It's very difficult for us. We don't know how to stretch our budget anymore. There's just nothing left," Domingo said.

According to the property division staff, most of the supplies, which were acquired on loan, will last only until next week.

THE LEGISLATIVE-EXECUTIVE Development Advisory Council hears warning that budget deficit could spiral out of control. (From left) Sen. Franklin Drilon, President Macapagal, Speaker De Venecia, Executive Sectretary Romulo, Interior Sectretary Lina and Representative Andaya.

ERIK ARAZAS

GMA: Pass 2 bills to show economy 'still functioning'

From page A1

"The government cannot coast along in its fiscal performance," the CPBD report read. It has to "arrest the drift in borrowing before it gets deeper into debt," it added.

"Signs are that the government is already experiencing serious debt overhang problems as shown by the increasing share of interest payment and the need to attract new borrowings to refinance its maturing obligations," it said.

The congressional think tank said the deficit increased the country's foreign debt and decreased allocations for economic services, health and education.

De Venecia presented the CPBD report, "Getting out of the fiscal bind," written by economist Romulo Neri, at the Ledac meeting.

Doubling debt

The CPBD report said the national government's outstanding debt doubled in six years—from P1.33 trillion in 1996 to P2.87 trillion in 2001.

Total public sector debt also doubled, from P2.24 trillion in 1996 to P4.40 trillion in 2000. The total includes the debt of the national government plus those of government-owned and controlled corporations, Social Security System, government financial institutions, local government units and the Central Bank Board of Liquidators.

The CPBD said the spike in the official debt could be traced to the widening fiscal deficit and contingent liabilities, or guarantees provided to GOCCs and GFIs. From P95.68 billion in 1991, contingent liabilities amounted to P493.35 billion in 2001.

It said total contingent liabilities extended by the government to various Build-Operate-Transfer projects might reach P2.5 trillion.

The CPBD said rising interest payments had "crowded out" other important government expenditures, particularly economic services, the allocation for which declined from an average of 24.7 percent in the period 1992-1997 to 20.2 percent in 2001.

It said that while social services accounted for 31 percent of the budget, this was still way below the 40-percent norm set by the United Nations Development Program. The country also lagged behind its neighbors in terms of public spending for education and health, the report said.

The CPBD said weak revenue performance was the culprit behind the government's vulnerable fiscal position, with the Philippines consistently lagging behind its Asean neighbors in tax collection.

From its peak in 1994 at 19.9 percent of GDP, revenue collection reached its lowest level of 15.6 percent in 2001.

Latin American contagion

The President's appeal to Congress came a day after reports that US investment fund Cerberus Ltd. had cut a third of its planned investment in the country due to disappointment over the slow pace of economic legislation in the country.

"This is to counter the currency and financial pressure the Philippines faces arising from the turmoil in Brazil and Argentina and the budget deficit of the national government," the President said.

"So, if the House of Representatives could pass these two bills this week, I hope the Senate could pass it next week."

Investors had dumped the Philippines with emerging economies in Latin America teetering on the brink of debt payment default.

The Macapagal administration holds a majority of the seats in both houses of Congress so it will not be difficult to pass the reform bills, a Malacañang statement said.

The government estimates it would raise about $2 billion from the privatization of the transmission lines of the state power firm National Power Corp. under the Transmission Corp. franchise bill.

That amount would give the government some leeway in achieving its P130-billion budget deficit target this year.

Legislation would allow the transfer of the electricity franchises to groups interested to lease transmission assets of Napocor.

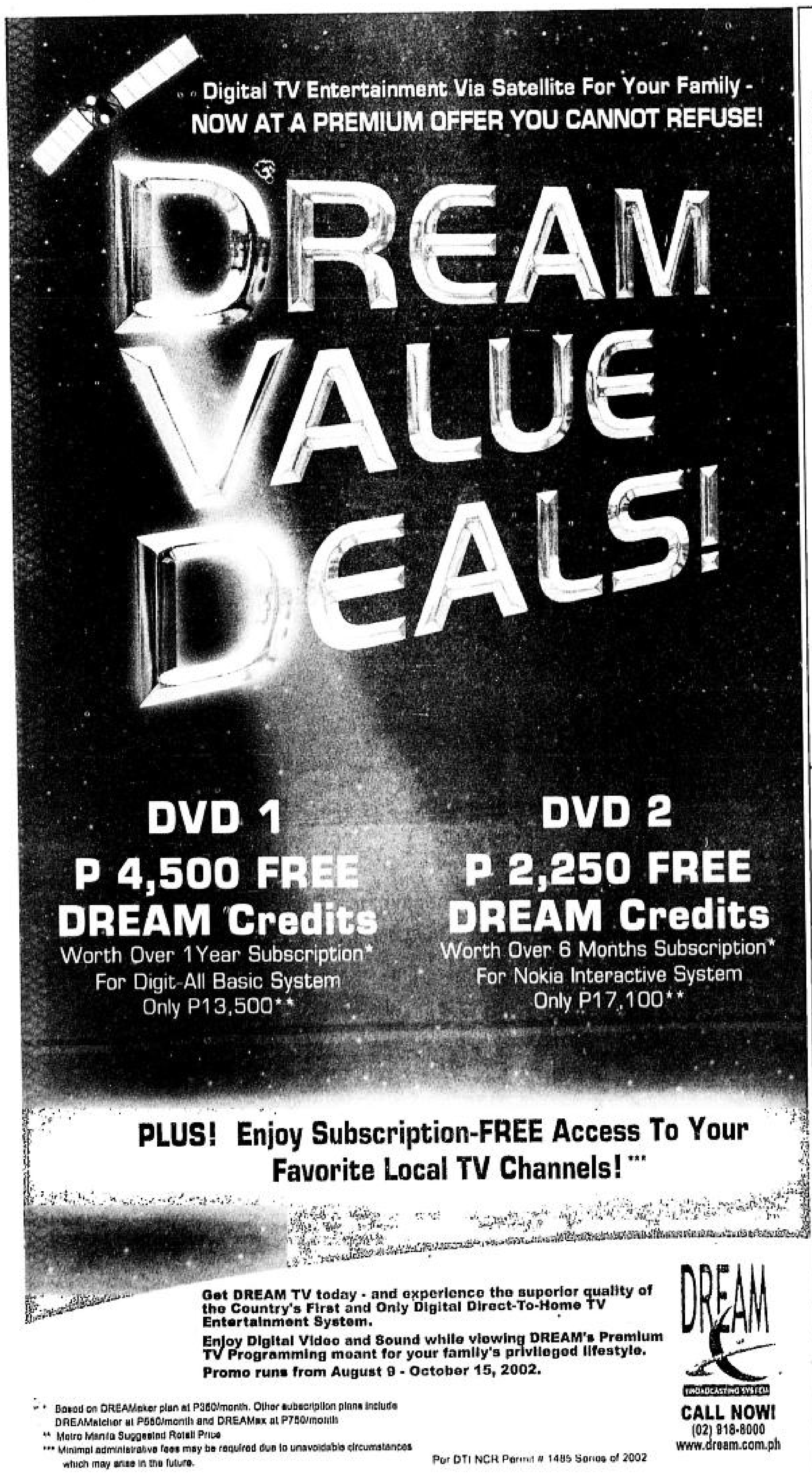
The special purpose asset vehicle (SPAV) bill seeks to give tax and other incentives to asset management companies that will be buying banks' non-performing loans. Banks may also be allowed to invest in the asset management firms.

Foreign institutions, like Cerberus, have been waiting for the legislation on asset management firms before they pump investments in the country.

Hong Kong-based credit rating agency Fitch Ratings last week warned that the country was vulnerable to contagion from the Latin American debt crisis if it failed to rein in its fiscal deficit.

De Venecia endorsed the CPBD study to House members, who are up in arms against the delay in the release of the congressional pork barrel.

"The budget deficit problem requires an immediate and effective response borne out of our collective efforts to confront this serious problem," De Venecia said. ***With reports from Reuters, AFP***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There's no stopping executions, says DOJ

By Michael Lim Ubac

STATE executions of convicted criminals will resume this year despite the reprieve granted convicted rapist Rolando Pagdayawon by President Macapagal-Arroyo, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday.

Perez said all 30 Death Row convicts, whose convictions had been upheld by the Supreme Court, would be executed in accordance with the provisions of the Death Penalty Law.

Perez's statements are meant to clarify the President's order to stay the execution of Pagdayawon as a birthday present to Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin who celebrates his birthday on Aug. 31.

Pagdayawon, who was convicted and sentenced to death for the repeated rape of his stepdaughter, was to have been executed by lethal injection on Aug. 30.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye has clarified that Pagdayawon was granted a reprieve, not a commutation of his sentence.

This meant that his execution would just be postponed to a later date, Bunye said.

Yesterday, the Supreme Court ordered the justice secretary to submit in three days a comment on a petition for prohibition filed by the Free Legal Assistance Group which is seeking a stay of all executions.

Moratorium

But Perez argued that the law should be carried out to the letter. He said the President should first issue a moratorium on state executions before the justice department can act to stop them.

"Unless the President orders a reprieve, we cannot suspend the implementation of the law," Perez said.

It was also arguable whether a mere resolution of Congress could suspend the implementation of the Death Penalty Law "unless it is a joint resolution of the House and the Senate," he said.

If the President "does not stop it on her own," only the passage of a law removing the Death Penalty Law can stop the executions, Perez argued.

He said he was leaving it up to the Congress to make the decision.

"At the time the Death Penalty Law was enacted, there was a rash of crimes and at every opportunity members of Congress declared particular crimes as heinous that merit the death penalty," he said.

Congress would have to evaluate whether conditions have improved so that the law can be lifted, or if the law has not proved to be a deterrent to the commission of heinous crimes, the justice secretary said.

"That's the job of Congress and I do not want to interfere," he said.

Of 30 death convicts, six have been issued death warrants.

Flag plea

On Monday, Flag pleaded with the high court to stop the scheduled execution of the six rapists and of the 24 others, so as not to "deprive them of the beneficial effects of a congressional repeal of the Death Penalty Law."

Flag also asked the high court to immediately stop the Palace from resuming state executions.

It also asked the SC to commute the death sentences of the convicts to reclusion perpetua (30 years) on the ground that the law re-imposing capital punishment, or Republic Act 7659, was arbitrary and thus unconstitutional.

The high court has upheld the constitutionality of RA 7659 in several rulings.

Flag wants the high court to enjoin the justice secretary, director of the Bureau of Corrections and the superintendent of the New Bilibid Prisons from carrying out the executions of the 30 death convicts.

Flag lawyers Theodore Te, Ricardo Sunga III and Edgardo Abaya filed the petition.

Te urged the SC to take judicial notice that a legislative process has been started to repeal the law.

He also said allowing the trial courts the discretion to determine the "heinousness" of a crime without any clear standards "would be to invite arbitrariness as the determination and appreciation of these standards would vary from court to court."

Flag has already asked the United Nations Committee to intervene and "request" the Philippines to stop the executions.

RP to get food relief from US

WASHINGTON—The Agriculture Department said on Monday it is donating a total of $10.5 million worth of US farm commodities to Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines.

The USDA said it would donate $4.5 million, or 32,500 tons, of US wheat to a private relief agency for use in Indonesia.

The relief agency, Winrock International, will sell the wheat and use the proceeds to improve Indonesia's food safety infrastructure.

Vietnam will receive $4.2 million of US crops, including 19,500 tons of soymeal and 500 tons of nonfat dry milk, the department said.

The commodities will be donated to a number of private relief agencies. The food will be sold locally with the proceeds used to improve water facilities and expand educational services.

The USDA also said it would donate $1.8 million, or 10,600 tons, of yellow corn to a private relief agency for use in the Philippines. *Reuters*

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Mr. Carlos Aguilar, Jr. & Mr. Mariano Singson, Jr.
The course reorients participants on basic English principles and introduces them to new international writing standards for memos, letters, reports. The new writing models enhance one's effectiveness as a professional.
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Mr. Larry Esguerra IV
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New party seeks members

THE LEADERS of the newly launched political party, Kapatiran sa Pangkalahatang Kabutihan (Kapatiran), are appealing to all citizens of good will who are looking for change to start forming Kapatiran chapters in their barangays, municipalities and cities.

Lawyer Mario Ongkiko, Kapatiran president, said the formation of chapters throughout the country is required by the Commission on Elections before it takes up Kapatiran's application for registration as a political party.

Ongkiko said: "All that is needed is a simple letter addressed to the Election Officer of the city or municipality signed by at least 10 registered voters from that municipality or city stating the voting precincts where they are registered. The letter should also state that the signatories of the letter are members of Kapatiran and that they would like Kapatiran sa Pangkalahatang Kabutihan to be recognized as a political party. The letter should state the address of the local chapter. The letter should be made in triplicate—one is to be delivered to the concerned Election Officer of the city or municipality receipt of which is to be acknowledged, one is to be retained by the chapter, and the third is to be sent to the main office of Kapatiran."

He said "form letters to the election officer are available from the Kapatiran office at the 4th floor of Cacho-Gonzalez building, 101 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, Metro Manila. Or make your request by email to: kpkcommongood@hotmail.com."

Nandy Pacheco, Kapatiran chairman, said the party's objectives are: 1) to develop an enlightened and responsible citizenry through character development and value formation; 2) to promote a consistent ethic of life; 3) to promote a strong and responsible two-party system; 3) to introduce a new kind of politics; and 4) to field local and national candidates who are morally upright with academic qualifications and experience, and who believe in the principles, values and objectives of Kapatiran.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, August 28, 2002
21st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18**
Gospel: **Mt 23:27-32**

Jesus said, "Woe to you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs beautiful in appearance, but inside there are only dead bones and uncleanness. In the same way you appear as religious to others, but you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness within.

Woe to you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous. You say: Had we lived in the time of our ancestors, we would not have joined them in the blood of prophets. So, you yourselves confess to be kins of those who murdered the prophets. And now, finish off what your ancestors began!"

Commentary

One of the most famous books of Erich Fromm is about freedom. Freedom implies to assume risks but many people prefer to be secured even if that means to renounce freedom. The pharisees in the time of Jesus were not bad people. But they were afraid of freedom. They preferred to look for security. How could they attain salvation? Very simple, implementing even the last letter of the law. However, they forgot that it is the heart that has to be converted. They stayed in the externals. Their hearts kept on being impure, Jesus offers a new way of encountering God: from responsible freedom and truth. It is more risky but it is the only possible way.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LABOR LAW (LABOR RELATIONS LAW)—Gross negligence—Gross negligence has been defined as the want or absence of or failure to exercise slight care or diligence, or the entire absence of care. It evinces a thoughtless disregard of consequences without exerting any effort to avoid them. A peruse of the records of the case does not in any way show that private respondents were even remotely negligent of their duties so as to cause the loss of petitioner's funds. Significantly, in order to constitute a just cause of the employee's dismissal, the neglect of duties must not only be gross but also habitual. Thus, the single or isolated act of negligence does not constitute a just cause for the dismissal of the employee. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Bellosillo, National Bookstore, Inc. v. Court of Appeals Special Eighth Division, G. R. No. 146741, February 27, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

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EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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Secrets

EDITORIAL

WIN some, lose some. That seems to be the story of the Macapagal administration's high-profile campaign against crime and lawlessness.

In the weeks following her State of the Nation Address where she announced a renewed anti-crime campaign, President Macapagal-Arroyo has been rushing from one place to another to present to the media suspects arrested by law enforcers for various crimes, big and small. On Tuesday last week, however, the Abu Sayyaf delivered a major blow to the campaign and dealt the administration its biggest international embarrassment since the Dos Palmas raid in May last year by abducting six members of the Jehovah's Witnesses in Patikul, Sulu. And to intensify the horror and drive home the message that they were still around and undaunted by the prospect of clashing with troops that had been trained by US Special Forces in counter-terrorism techniques, the kidnappers beheaded two of their male captives. Last Sunday, it was the government's turn to score when a combined police and military operation resulted in the rescue of a 4-year-old girl from the wealthy Lopez family, the killing of a leader of the notorious Pentagon Gang, Faisal Marohombsar, and the arrest of three of his men.

Although it can hardly match the Abu Sayyaf in terms of strength, cruelty and daring, the Pentagon Gang is no pushover when it comes to criminal activities. It has been blamed for the abduction of a Canadian national, an Italian priest, four Chinese engineers working on an irrigation project in Cotabato, two doctors and a number of businessmen. After one of its leaders, Tahir Alonto, was arrested in 1999, scores of armed men, believed to be members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, stormed the General Santos City Jail and set him free. All these activities have earned the Pentagon Gang the distinction of being counted among three Philippine groups classified by the US government as foreign terrorist organizations.

Marohombsar's life of crime stretched far longer than the founding of the Pentagon Gang two years ago. He is said to have been a principal henchman of the late "Kumander Mubarak" who led another kidnap gang that operated in the late 1980s. But curiously, Marohombsar didn't spend time in jail until February this year when he was arrested in a cheap motel in Quiapo, Manila. Four months later in June, he walked away to freedom after getting out of his cell and clambering up the walls of what was supposedly a maximum security detention center in Camp Crame.

How Marohombsar managed to elude the long arm of the law for so long and how he did a Houdini at the national headquarters of the Philippine National Police are secrets he has brought to his grave. But even when he was still alive there was already talk that he enjoyed the protection of police and military officials and even served as their "asset." Some of his relatives have been quoted as saying that he had provided his handlers in the police and military with information that resulted in the killing of his own followers in alleged shootouts with law-enforcement officers. On the other hand, he is said to have implicated some police officials in his kidnapping activities.

Considering his mysterious escape and his long career in the underworld, such talk is not hard to believe. This is the reason his death in the hands of his pursuers cannot be considered an unqualified success. He may be the biggest fish caught in the net of the government's new anti-crime campaign so far, but alive he could have helped catch so many others, including perhaps his police and military protectors.

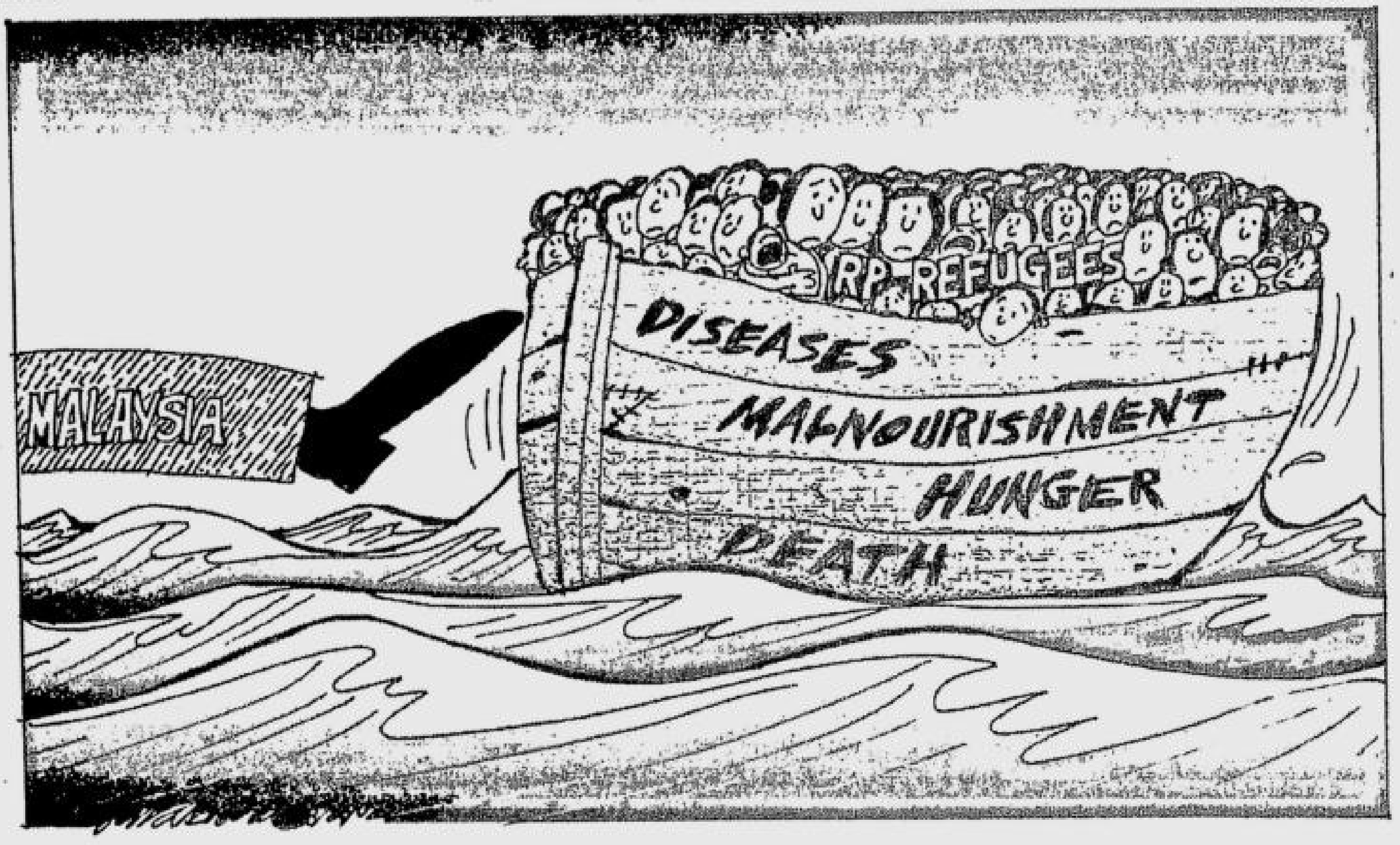
Doubts about war

FOREIGN COMMENT

WHILE President Bush still threatens war against Iraq, there is mounting evidence of disagreement among America's Middle East experts, as well as in the nations that would be expected to join any military coalition. If he is sincere about consulting his closest allies, including Britain, he will postpone any offensive until he can prove to them—and the United Nations—that Saddam Hussein is an imminent danger to world peace.

The British public is by no means convinced that Iraq under Saddam is about to take on the world or that military action could guarantee that a more West-friendly regime would replace him.

The Belfast Telegraph (Northern Ireland)



Buyers shouldn't patronize sidewalk vendors

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE CURRENT fight between Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando and the sidewalk vendors is a fight between law and order and anarchy, a fight between law enforcers and lawbreakers. All law-abiding citizens know who is right and who is wrong, whom they should support and whom they should condemn. But ironically, there are some misguided bleeding hearts—and grandstanders?—giving aid and comfort to the lawbreakers. Even priests, who should know better, and congressmen, who passed the laws being violated by the sidewalk vendors in the first place, are encouraging them by criticizing Fernando for doing his duty—enforce the law.

The vendors are only trying to earn a living, to feed their families, say these bleeding hearts. Respect the rights of the vendors, they cry, as though the MMDA is oppressing the vendors.

While championing the rights of the vendors, these bleeding hearts forget the rights of the greater majority of the people for whom the sidewalks and roads were built. They were built for pedestrians to walk on (that is why they are called sidewalks) and for vehicles to roll on, not to be a marketplace and a parking lot. Because of the vendors and the parked vehicles on the sidewalks, pedestrians are forced to walk out on the streets where they run the risk of being sideswiped by passing vehicles. (My own aunt, 81, was run over and killed by a tanker truck just last week while she was walking on the street, beside the sidewalk, because she couldn't walk on the sidewalk itself. That will be the subject of another column.)

Nobody is stopping the vendors from selling their wares and earning a living. But they should do it in the proper place—inside the market or in some other place legally set aside for vending. All that they're being asked to do is to obey the law, as all citizens are obliged to do. There is a law against vending on the sidewalk and that law must be enforced, just as laws against robbery and holdups must be enforced, just as laws against kidnapping and rapes must be enforced.

"*Naghahanapbuhay lang kami,*" is their mantra. "*Mahirap lang kasi kami.*" What will happen if pickpockets, thieves, kidnappers and other criminals use the same excuse? "*Naghahanap lang kami ng maipapakain sa aming mga anak. Wawa naman kami.*" Does it mean we will allow them to commit crime because they're just trying to feed hungry mouths? What about their victims? They're also trying to earn a living. What about the pedestrians robbed of the sidewalks? They're also working for a living, same as the vendors. In enforcing the law, Fernando is also working for his salary.

Does poverty exempt a person form obeying the law? It doesn't. The law applies to all, rich and poor alike. What will happen if a thief is exempted from the law just because he is poor?

The sidewalk vendors can sell their wares peacefully inside the markets, without Fernando or anybody else bothering them. But they don't want to sell inside the markets; they prefer to sell on the sidewalks. Not only is it free, more customers buy there because it saves them, the customers, the few steps into the market. As a result, the markets are empty but the sidewalks and roads are bursting.

Therefore, the solution to the problem is in the buying public. If they will take the trouble to walk the few steps into the market and refrain from buying from the sidewalk vendors, the latter will be forced to get out of the sidewalks and streets and sell their goods inside the market. The citizenry should have civic spirit and do what is right, not what is merely convenient. When the sidewalks are clear, all the citizens will benefit.

Which is why Fernando thought of sprinkling kerosene on the wares of the vendors. Not only will his people not be accused of taking the goods of the vendors, the kerosene taste and smell will prevent customers from buying them.

The vendors say the rentals inside the markets are too high. Fernando said that for the sidewalk vendors, market rentals have been reduced to P50 per, payable at the end of the day, when they have already earned a profit. This is less than what they're paying to corrupt policemen, barangay officials and City Hall employees for being allowed to stay on the sidewalks. These are the parasites that are now surreptitiously encouraging the vendors to fight Fernando. Without the vendors violating the law, they will lose their payola.

They say they paid for permits from City Hall. Illegally issued permits are not valid, everybody should know that. City Hall has no authority to issue permits for what is prohibited by law. As Fernando said, not even the mayor—or the President—can do that.

We are lucky that we have Fernando as MMDA chair. For decades, one MMDA chair after another looked the other way while vendors sowed anarchy on the sidewalks. For the first time, we have an MMDA official who is strictly enforcing the law. We have seen what he has done in his native Marikina which is now the envy of other Metro Manila cities and towns. The same enviable results he is now trying to do for the rest of Metro Manila, as his mandate tells him to do. But he will need the help and support of everybody—the customers and yes, the sidewalk vendors—the same way he and his successor are now getting the help and cooperation of the people of Marikina when they saw what his reforms have done.

About time

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE HOUSE of Representatives continues to offer resistance to the overseas vote. I understand Didagen Dilangalen has threatened to sue the overseas groups that, from sheer frustration, have begun naming the congressmen who have been throwing obstacle upon obstacle into their path. And putting those names up in the Internet for all the world to see, and not vote for.

I myself have given the overseas groups the unsolicited advice that they should do everything in their power to provoke Dilangalen some more. The last time the fellow tried to gag somebody, he sparked an impeachment trial and the downfall of a president. That was when he prevented Chavit Singson from spilling the beans on Erap in Roilo Golez's committee, in part by raising all sorts of legal gobbledygook and in the main by drowning all other voices in the room with his shrill and irritating one. The public's reaction to it was swift and decisive. It demanded that Singson be allowed to tell every last sordid detail.

I most sincerely hope Dilangalen sues his tormentors. That should hasten the process considerably.

It's the House bill that puts up all sorts of riders and caveats to the overseas vote. The Senate bill is fairly straightforward. It covers "all Filipino citizens overseas who can present proof of their Filipino citizenship," and takes effect 15 days after publication. The House bill removes immigrants and permanent residents from coverage and applies only to the 2004 elections. For Filipinos abroad to continue voting after 2004, Congress must pass another law to enable it and only upon the recommendation of the oversight committee. Immigrants and permanent residents comprise around two and half million souls. And a law that applies only to 2004 means that Filipinos abroad will have to go through the whole trouble again to get the vote after that.

The Senate bill is still the thing to bat for. But I figure we can always settle for the House version if it can't be had (the cutoff point is the end of the year) just so we can finally give Filipinos abroad the vote. The overseas voters can always punish the congressmen who have been making their lives difficult with the same vote they are being given grudgingly and thriftily. And I figure you can't put the genie back in the lamp after you spring it out. Filipinos abroad get to vote in 2004, and hell and high water may not prevent them from voting again in subsequent elections, however the exercise gets blindsided by irregularities. Heaven help any congressman who gets in their path then.

It's time the overseas Filipinos got the vote. The figures alone argue formidably for their cause. There are (as of December 2000) some 7.38 million Filipinos abroad: 2.9 million OFWs, 2.5 million permanent residents and 1.8 million irregulars. You take away the permanent residents, and you still have close to 5 million voters. That's a lot of Filipinos being disenfranchised.

This is no ordinary group of voters moreover. I said before, and I say again, that you give the vote to overseas Filipinos and you improve the voting stock overnight. These are voters who are beyond the pale of "guns, goons and gold." Additionally, their exposure to other cultures and systems would have expanded their horizons and opened their eyes to possibilities. Travel does broaden the mind, even the kind where the traveler ends up being confined to grilled quarters. At least they would have had the opportunity to compare systems, if not worlds, which is a huge aid to critical judgment.

And technology has made it possible for them to keep close tabs with what's happening in the country. If Edsa II is any indication, they just do not keep touch of local developments, they follow it with a passion and doggedness you won't find among many locals. Many locals prefer to forget what's happening in the country lest they join the 19 percent of the population that wants to leave it.

Quite apart from that, and this is the truly awesome thing, they have contributed a total of $41.6 billion to the economy from 1990 to 2000. The idea that they are the country's modern-day heroes is not an exaggerated one. Without them, this country would have died long ago, or sunk in the mire of the Fourth World, hat and begging bowl in hand. The American Revolution was waged on one principle, which is "no taxation without representation." We don't give the overseas Filipinos the vote, and we give them every reason to mount a revolution of their own. Certainly, we give them every reason to boycott a government that can't show them basic gratitude, or decency.

But in the end, it's more than that they've shown they deserve the vote by their awesome contributions to society. It is simply that it is their right to vote, as Filipino citizens. Why the congressmen keep forgetting that, I do not know. Their main objection to the overseas vote—it's way up in the list—is the fear of irregularities. Well, the local vote is riddled with irregularities, too—probably more so than the overseas vote will be, given guns goons and gold—but you do not withhold the vote from local residents because of it. You do not say, "We will not allow you to vote *na lang* because we cannot guarantee that you will not be cheated." That is stupid. But so is telling the overseas Filipinos the same thing. A government that withholds a right from a citizen because it cannot defend that right has no business existing.

But all this is past argument. I support entirely the overseas groups' tack of putting out the names of the congressmen who insist on stealing not just their taxes but their right to vote. Now, if they can only bring those names from the Internet to the pages of newspapers....

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Toxic atmosphere of too much politics

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE MACAPAGAL administration is the first presidency in the post-Marcos era with the opportunity to seek reelection. An examination of this extraordinary political circumstance can help explain why the three and a half years of this presidency is probably the most politicized administration in the history of the republic.

The last time a President sought reelection was 16 years ago. President Ferdinand Marcos lost his reelection bid in February 1986 through People Power after stealing the snap election.

His successor, President Corazon Aquino, changed the Constitution, in a pendulum swing to avert repetition of a presidency with an open-ended tenure. The new Constitution pegged the presidential term to six years without reelection, in contrast to two four-year terms prior to the Marcos dictatorship in 1972.

Aquino did not seek reelection, and could have devoted full-time attention to rebuilding a shattered economy, except that six coup attempts dissipated that focus, as well as the nation's energy. Her successor, Fidel V. Ramos, who was not distracted for most of his term by reelection fever, concentrated in rebuilding the economy and expanding it close to the growth rates of the East Asian tiger economies.

Ramos did try to amend the Constitution to allow him to seek another term. He failed. Joseph Estrada won election in 1998 but corruption, economic management and governance issues brought his government down in the middle of his term. This is the setting in which Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo succeeded to the presidency.

Since she is serving the uncompleted term of Estrada, President Macapagal, with questions of legitimacy hovering over her head, is not only obviously seeking reelection for a full six-year term. She has little time to show results. What it took Aquino and Ramos six years each to stamp their accomplishments in their presidencies, President Macapagal has a contracted time frame in which she can show results.

She is in a hurry to do things, and her crash program approach, with a populist accent, has easily been perceived as full-time electioneering during her transitional term. The President cannot dispel this perception, no matter whether about half of her programs and decisions has probably not been calculated to gain political advantage.

Thus, any major Cabinet resignation—such as those of Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. and former Education Secretary Raul Roco—can be read as "purge" of potential presidential rivals who have to be crippled early in the race. The national mood has been heavily politicized and this mood has infected both the administration and the opposition. While the opposition has accused the President of having been obsessed with 2004, its members are also afflicted with the 2004 virus.

If the administration alliance has been fractured by the resignation from the Cabinet of Guingona and Roco, both of whom were key members of the anti-Estrada coalition, the opposition is in no better shape than the administration coalition.

The opposition is running a deep cleavage between two main tendencies—one, a moderate issue-oriented tendency identified with Sen. Edgardo Angara and a conservative, hard-Right wing represented by Sen. Panfilo Lacson. Both are known to nurse presidential ambitions, but if Angara, whose LDP-Laban is the biggest party in the opposition, is determined to block Lacson's bid by denying him a party machine, the opposition can be fractured as much as the administration coalition.

The quiet but no longer concealed power struggle between Angara and Lacson for control of the opposition and its ideological soul is matched by the cleavages in the administration coalition. Guingona is president of Lakas-NUCD, the biggest of the multi-parties forming the coalition. His support or denial of support for the President's reelection bid can be crucial to the unity or disintegration of the coalition. Roco has not indicated whether he would pull out his small party, Aksyon Demokratiko, from the coalition.

His resignation has made him a rallying point of disaffection against President Macapagal and is emerging as a threat to her reelection chances. The tremors shaking both the opposition and administration coalitions also open the field for the formation of a third force. The arena for political realignments is unstable, with the result that politics will continue to gain primacy over economics in the run-up to 2004.

The channeling of the nation's energy into positioning for political advantage in 2004 is at the expense of economics. It comes at a time when most countries of the world have been hit hard by the economic slowdown stemming from the Sept. 11 events and, for East Asia, it can be traced much earlier to the 1997 financial crisis.

The fiscal deficit that appears to get out of hand, the flight of investments or their reluctance to flow into the country, the new slide of the peso to the US dollar and the general sluggishness of the economy should have required the priority attention of this government. It is a government led by a President with an economic discipline and competent economic managers, but the primacy of politics undermines their expertise and diffuses their focus.

Economic management is toiling in the toxic atmosphere of excessive political engagement. While most of Asia have given primacy to their economies, we are doing the opposite—and at the wrong time.

What's wrong with this picture?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AMONG THE MOST jarring sights produced in the current "law and order" campaign of the Macapagal administration is that of the President, prim and proper in a deep pink pantsuit, standing with hands folded and gazing upon the bullet-riddled corpse of Faisal Marohombsar. Was no one even disturbed that the body of the former Pentagon gang leader was trundled into the President's presence in a carabao-drawn bamboo cart, his remains covered by banana leaves like a bilao of *kakanin*? And that, to satisfy the President's curiosity, as well as that of the hungry media, the covering was then lifted to prove that it was indeed Marohombasar?

That photo-op with Marohombsar's bloody remains is the lowest point in a campaign that has seen the President flouting the law and the presumption of innocence by having suspects paraded before her.

But in this last instance, she has broken not just the laws of the land, but also all laws of common decency. Just because the dead had been in life a bandit, ruthless kidnapper and cause of embarrassment for the administration, does it mean the government is then free to disrespect his remains?

* * *

OF course, the police and the military do this all the time. It's become routine, in fact, that after a shootout the bodies of the "neutralized" are laid out in a row like fish set out to dry in the sun. And when the photographers and camera operators are done recording the grisly scene, the bodies are then unceremoniously dumped into the back of a truck or jeep.

You might remember the botched rescue of Chinoy student Charlene Sy, who died in a hail of bullets when police shot it out with her abductors. But while the public may have been willing to understand the necessity of the armed pursuit, they could not overlook the fact that after the kidnappers' car came to a stop, Charlene's body was laid out on the street along with those of the criminals, as if in death she had joined their ranks.

I remember being in a dinner with former President Ramos when the tragic rescue operation was brought up. When many of the guests, including this columnist, expressed shock at the treatment of Charlene's remains, FVR said he, too, was incensed by what he saw, adding that there are enough guidelines issued to police and military on the proper handling of remains.

One of them, he said, is to carry corpses on slings or plywood sheets, and not by the feet and arms like animals off to slaughter.

Still, the mishandling and disrespect shown to the remains of the enemy continued, reaching its nadir during the escalation of hostilities against Muslim rebels during the Erap administration when rebel corpses were paraded through Muslim areas.

* * *

BUT the viewing of Marohombsar's remains marks the first time such a grisly exercise was presided over by no less than the highest official of the land.

President Macapagal professes to be a "pro-life" President, eschewing the active promotion of contraception and claiming unease with implementing the death penalty. And yet there she was Sunday afternoon, in the middle of a pastoral scene of rice fields and mango trees, looking down with grim satisfaction at the body of a fugitive.

And perhaps because the presence of the President lent the scene respectability, TV news broadcasts seemed to dwell longer than necessary on Marohombsar's body sprawled in the cart.

One would think we had long abandoned the practice of displaying bandits' remains—laid out in front of the capitol, or hanging from a lamppost—to "teach" the populace the lesson that crime does not pay. But it seems we have not only revived the practice, but popularized it as well, the bloody message disseminated through the media, the grisly scenes invading the privacy of our homes.

* * *

THEY comprise more than half of the population. Those of employable age comprise the majority of the unemployed, and, being the least employable, they are also the most vulnerable to economic downtrends. Thus, they also report the highest poverty incidence among the sectors.

Who are they? They are the country's youth.

From Sept. 7-11, young Filipinos will be joining youth leaders from all over the world in an unprecedented Youth Employment Summit (YES2002) to solve the problem of unemployment in this century.

The summit, which will be held at the new Library of Alexandria in Egypt, will be attended by over 2,000 delegates, including government ministers, the media, representatives from the non-profit and private sectors, educators and some 1,000 youth from around the globe.

YES2002 is a global campaign dedicated to identifying and spreading creative youth employment strategies worldwide. The summit's goal is to ensure that an additional 500 million young adults, especially those facing poverty, will have productive and sustainable livelihoods by the year 2012. Former US President Bill Clinton along with Egyptian First Lady Suzanne Mubarak, are the summit's co-chairs.

Locally, the Philippine delegation to YES2002 is launching a Philippine YES Country Network (PhilYES), a multi-stakeholder coalition of 18 youth organizations and individuals, headed by the Youth for Sustainable Development Assembly-Pilipinas, that facilitates the creation of sustainable livelihood for Filipino youth in their local communities.

PhilYES plans to achieve this by initiating demonstration projects and training modules on sustainable youth employment, aside from documenting past and ongoing programs and campaigns on youth employment.

Rizal's lost love letters

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

OVER A DECADE ago, I traveled all the way to Camiling, Tarlac to interview the descendants of Leonor Rivera, fiancée of the National Hero, and churned out a Valentine's Day article on the woman who would have been Mrs. Jose Rizal. Like many Filipinos, I maintained a soft spot for this tragic heroine who was forced by her mother to marry an Englishman working on the construction of the Manila-Dagupan railway rather than the author of the "Noli Me Tangere." Then as now, I guess, overprotective mothers always prefer a man with a stable job rather than an artist for their daughters. I reflected on this as I walked inside the small Leonor Rivera museum in Camiling, peering into old pictures and other memorabilia, the most striking of which was a long lock of Leonor's hair tied into a friendship bracelet. Young women in those days had very creative ways with hair. In the Bangko Sentral collection of paintings, for example, are two 19th century works that look like ordinary drawings. Closer inspection of these genre scenes of rural life reveal that the pictures are made of human hair embroidered on silk!

In the museum, I was attracted to a small box covered with embroidered cloth that once kept the love letters of Rizal. Naturally, I requested that the box be taken out of the display case and opened despite a warning that is was empty. Who knows? Finding a new batch of unpublished letters is like winning the lotto. I was disappointed that the box was indeed empty but for a few stray pieces of ash. I was told that early in the morning of her wedding day, Leonor took all of Rizal's letters (and hers too) read them one last time and burned them. Afterwards, she gathered the ashes and patiently sewed these on the hem of her wedding dress. By all standards this is a very romantic gesture. Imagine walking down the aisle literally walking over the crumbling remains of a failed relationship. Sigh. This bit of information may work in a historical novel or a poem but the historian in me—deprived of these letters—wanted to pull my hair in despair. If it were possible, I wanted to strangle Leonor with her beautiful, black and silky hair. One can argue that Rizal's love letters do not matter in the emergence of the Filipino nation, but then it is still a loss to us, and a loss to history. If Rizal had married Leonor, would he be our hero today? Historians outdo each other in reconstructing the past from stray and data. Each bit of information gathered from old books, photographs, manuscripts, interviews, letters and diaries is important to complete the full picture. From these sources I have often seen the outline of the story of our nation, but also—because of my training under the late Doreen Fernandez and E. Aguilar Cruz—how this nation was nourished by food and drink.

Research has shown that Rizal's preferred breakfast was *sardinas secas*. Literally, this translates into "dried sardines." It doesn't make an impression on Filipinos until you realize that *sardinas secas* is a *sosyal* way of describing the familiar *tuyo*. I've always marveled at the food Rizal's family sent when he was studying in Europe like *pancit* noodles and *burong manga* (pickled mangoes). When the bottles broke in transit one can feel both Rizal's homesickness and loss.

Emilio Aguinaldo, pursued up Northern Luzon by the Americans in 1899, enjoyed what he called the "Banawe Breakfast" consisting of milk and coffee (this must be that sweet brew that is two-thirds milk and one-third coffee), fried *camote* covered with butter 5 to 7 millimeters thick. Compared to the so-called "Continental breakfast" of strong black coffee, toast and unsalted butter, the "Banawe Breakfast" is truly the cholesterol special. We have the printed menus for the lunch and dinner held in Malolos in September 1898 that indicated what the Founding Fathers of the Philippines ate and drank before the Americans took over the country.

We also have cookbooks. The earliest I have found is a 17th-century Agustinian friar's cookbook that I have been threatening to kitchen-test and annotate for the past 20 years. Then there are the printed Tagalog cookbooks that were popular at the turn of the last century. Most of these were translated from European cookbooks and my favorites are both published by the Libreria Martinez in 1919. The "Aklat ng Pagluluto" not only lists foreign dishes like Ensalada de Rossini, pudding, rabbit, lamb and assorted sausages, it actually has recipes for *tinola, sinigang, adobo* and *buco* sherbet. More intriguing is the illustrated "Pasteleria y Reposteria" whose frontispiece has a pyramid of cream puffs described as "*croquembucheng karaniuan.*" It boggles the imagination to think of a Manila home at the time serving such an elaborate culinary construction. Even Doreen could not tell me what a *croquembucheng especial* would be like.

Long before Nora Daza and Enriqueta David Perez there were the small novena-sized cookbook by Pura Villanueva Kalaw; a manuscript (complete with home-made cooking implements and measures) in the hand of Gregoria de Jesus Nakpil, the muse of the Katipunan, the widow of Andres Bonifacio [this I have yet to see]; and the Paris cookbook of Juliana Gorricho, that details what she served the likes of Rizal, Juan Luna and Marcelo del Pilar in the late 1880s. ***(More on Friday)***

* * *

Comments to ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Ruminations

HIGH BLOOD

Hiram C. Mendoza

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

AT 67, I don't mind being regarded by Generation X-ers as some kind of relic from our Jurassic past. A dinosaur, the young would say. Fact is, I am an admirer of the brontosaurus, that long-necked reptile straight out of Brobdingnag. Bone scientists have found that this creature carried two cavities for its pair of bipolar brains: one in its cranium and another at the base of its enormous tail. In between these two masses of gray matter was a body that had obviously been designed by a Creator with a sense of humor.

This brings us to the topic of these ruminations—that rare human perception of the ridiculous that may serve to lighten the current street debate as to how we may properly balance the enjoyment of civil liberties with the rigors of governance and individual responsibility. But let me first tell you where my fodder for these ruminations came from before I "chew the cud."

Last Aug. 3, 2002, my wife and I decided to support the rally against terrorism staged at the Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila. There, I sampled the mood of the ralliers many of whom looked poor and bedraggled despite sporting spanking new T-shirts that proclaimed their respective organizational affiliations. Their welfare, I tell myself, constitutes the *casus belli* that sunder the polemics between our so-called silent majority and shrill minority (also called "street parliamentarians") who battle each other to win our people's hearts and minds to their respective causes.

My wife and I spoke with some of those who marched in from the Luneta. We were seated with a handful of them in a mock "*carretela*" arrangement of covered park benches at the Liwasan. Our companions reminded us of the Edsa III crowd. They were mostly clod in rubber slippers and were accompanied by a merry menagerie of children, youth and older folk. Some of the young ones wore streaks of fake blond tresses on their tousled heads.

A withered old lady summed up for me the major reason why this motley group had joined the rally. She declared her *obiter dictum* more or less in these words: "We'll take their cash and their lunch tickets any time, but our hearts will beat only for Erap."

From where I sat, I sensed that she had grabbed by the crotch the social dilemma of our time. A mirthless laugh was all I could manage to prevent my sense of humor from spewing out with my puke. Happily, I was able to hold both threatening effluents in check—despite the old woman's candid summation.

Has our poverty overwhelmed our sense of individual and collective integrity? I asked myself. Why do many Filipinos seem ill-prepared to confront and grapple with moral issues, let alone political ones? Is this malaise the root cause of the rampant graft and corruption in our country? I was stumped for answers.

I then and there decided that I should not take this situation too seriously. I reflected that there is something funny about an Erap crowd supporting a GMA rally. And as I worked my funny bone to beat a grinning retreat from that blast furnace of reality, I also realized that the shrill minority in our midst—who are prone to picket the US Embassy whenever they get constipated or have diarrhea—can use a lot of the sense of the ridiculous, too.

What divides the minority from the majority is mainly attitude. Some will go as far as ascribing to the minority a "hidden agenda" of wanting to supplant the present form of government with a socialistic one. I'll stick with attitude.

I feel that the outspoken minority takes itself and life too seriously. This group deals with issues only in terms of black and white—acknowledging no other colors in between. The stuff it encounters is either right or wrong when done by the government.

Street parliamentarians and their ilk have not realized that the government of their pipe dreams has miserably failed to bring the good life to the peoples of the defunct USSR and the countries of Eastern Europe. They continue to demonize Adam Smith and deify Karl Marx although both had been the first to miss the variegated colors of the ideological rainbow, already apparent in their time. Since making their respective pontifications, both grousers had refused to learn new lessons in life and became dead old fogies. The Berlin Wall fell, as predicted by a young upstart named Francis Fukuyama. Still, the Left continues to beat the dead effigy of their dear departed old Karl. What a waste of energy by such a patriotic and politically conscienticized group!

As for me, I refuse to take life too seriously. I continue to look for constructive things to do and find ways to do some of them myself. If I stopped looking, I am likely to blame others (GMA, maybe) for not doing any one from my wish list of things that I myself have the primary duty of doing.

I may be a dinosaur but I am not a self-appointed guardian of the past. I live in the present, nurse a crush on Jay Lo and listen to NSync. I travel light. As I do not live prophylactically, I go anywhere without a thermometer, a hot water bottle, a gargle, a raincoat, aspirin, colchicine or a parachute.

I have resolved to limber up more and continue to be crazier than I had ever been. I continue to commit more mistakes and learn to enjoy them.

I have decided to climb more mountains even if there are no more forests in most of them, and resolved to plant some trees where I can.

I will keep my ear out for birdsong even if this now comes fewer and farther between. I will swim or cross more rivers even if most of them are now shot through with pollution, and do my bit to recycle my garbage. What is more I will not litter and will watch where I poop and pee.

Ah, I will even watch more sunsets unmindful of the fact that smog has dimmed their luster. I will do more walking and looking. I will smell more sampaguitas and pick more daisies. I will eat more ice cream and fewer beans.

In fine, I will let GMA manage the economy and break the back of the Abu Sayyaf. I will blow my whistle only when I have the goods on her. She'll reckon with me later when election time comes, as I may replace her if she does not live up to my expectations.

While doing all these, I'll continue to contribute my bit to the productive output of this country and enjoy life. Don't you think Satur Ocampo, What's-her-name (?) Montayre and Teddy Casiño should, too?

Hiram C. Mendoza 67, is a lawyer and president of the Economic Development Foundation based in Makati City.

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Taiwan renews bid to join UN

I WRITE to ask the support of the Philippine government and people for the bid of the Republic of China on Taiwan to gain readmission to the United Nations.

I believe there are compelling reasons why Taiwan (the Republic of China) deserves to get back its seat in the world body.

The preamble of the United Nations Charter speaks of the UN mission to "reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small." Yet, the government of the Republic of China and its 23 million people have been denied representation in the United Nations for more than 30 years.

Since its founding in 1912, the Republic of China has maintained its status as a sovereign state. It conducts its own foreign policy, maintains its own national defense and engages in formal, friendly and substantive relations with nations around the world.

Taiwan has also undergone political development on its own for more than half a century. Political reforms launched since the end of martial law in 1987 have expanded the realm of the democratic process. The first direct presidential election was held in 1996 and the presidential election in 2000 led to the peaceful transfer of power from the Kuomintang Party to the Democratic Progressive Party led by President Chen Shui-bian.

With the flowering of democracy in Taiwan, the government has moved to bring the country back into the international human rights system. Our legislature is poised to ratify both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Successful economic development and technological advancement have brought prosperity to all levels of Taiwanese society and established Taiwan as an economic powerhouse. It is now the world's 16th largest economy and has amassed the third largest foreign exchange reserves. Taiwan is also the 14th largest trading nation in the world and the third largest exporter of information technology products.

As a responsible member of the international community, Taiwan is eager to do its part in combating terrorism, drug trafficking, organized crime and environmental degradation. With UN membership, Taiwan can collaborate with international partners in helping solve pressing international problems.

Since the People's Republic of China gained UN membership in 1971, it has blocked all efforts of Taiwan to reenter the world body. The continuing lack of representation in the United Nations has rendered Taiwan unable to maximize its contribution to the global community.

It is time to correct this fundamental injustice and allow Taiwan to take its rightful seat in the United Nations.

—ROBERT T.J. SHIH,
director, information division,
Taipei Economic & Cultural Office, Pacific Star Bldg.,
Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City

Perspective on the birth control issue

IT is surprising to read Archbishop Orlando Quevedo quoted as presuming that very devout Catholics will try to persuade their own representatives in Congress to look at the (birth control) issue from the point of view of religious and moral principles. No doubt it is the duty of legislators to "look at the issue from the point of view of religious and moral principles." However, as a theologian with pastoral experience, Archbishop Quevedo knows that in a pluralistic country like the Philippines, there are many devout persons, both Catholic and non-Catholic, including bishops, who do not accept that natural family planning is always and in every case the only moral approach to regulating births. Nor is it even possible to follow this method unless both partners are willing to cooperate.

According to the Decree on Religious Freedom of Vatican II, it is wrong for Catholics to ignore the sincerely held religious or moral principles of others, and wrong to ask the State to impose Catholic teaching on every Filipino. This would return us to the friar-dominated Philippines of the 19th century with its union of Church and State. If the State were to use coercion to enforce on unwilling persons methods contrary to their conscience, that would be something certainly to be resisted. To give them the possibility of an informed and conscientious choice is not.

Moreover, it is wrong to suggest that any conscientious citizen should vote for a legislator (or president) based solely on his/her position on one moral issue, rather than on their concern for the common good. There are other issues like graft and corruption or the promotion of gambling which are more serious violations of the moral law, and more to be taken into consideration when we cast our vote for our representatives.

—JOHN N. SCHUMACHER, S.J.,
jns@admu.edu.ph

LETTERS

Sensible ideas for easing traffic on Edsa

SO many new ideas have been floated lately to improve the flow of traffic on Edsa and they include among others, the no-left-turn rule, the allocation of the entire outer lane as bus loading and unloading bays and the widening of the lane width. On top of all these, I consider the proposal made by Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza calling for the relocation of Edsa bus terminals as the most sensible idea, although it will require the political will of concerned officials to implement.

If I recall correctly, during the time of Transportation Secretary Jose P. Dans Jr., it was proposed to establish a common bus terminal in Caloocan City (at the PNR compound) to service provincial buses coming from the north, and another one within the FTI compound for provincial buses coming from the south. It was proposed then to upgrade the PNR operation to service commuters going to and from the bus terminals. In the present situation, where the LRT and MRT are in full operation, there is no need for provincial buses to enter the core area of the metropolis through Edsa and the Rizal Avenue-Taft Avenue corridors.

With the combined efforts of Mendoza and MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, who are both action-oriented, I see no reason why the colorum buses plying the Edsa route cannot be stopped and the bus terminals relocated.

—T. S. ATIENZA, 8401 Hemlock St., Marcelo Green Village, Parañaque City

DSWD prepared to receive Sabah deportees

THIS refers to the story written by Joan Orendain titled "RP refugees from Sabah today's boat people," last Aug. 21, 2002.

We wish to clarify that preparations for the arrival as well as assistance to the Sabah deportees are being undertaken.

A Philippine Navy vessel will provide transportation to the deportees from Sandakan which is being used as port of embarkation, per negotiations with Malaysian authorities. Port of disembarkation is Bongao, Tawi-tawi since almost half of the deportees are from Tawi-tawi. About 4,000 deportees will need to be ferried back to the Philippines using Navy vessels. Four vessels docked in Sandakan last Aug. 23.

To facilitate systematic deportation, Ambassador Ed Maglaya and a three-man team from the Department of Foreign Affairs have set up a DFA processing center in Bongao apart from the six-man team sent by the DFA to Sandakan. The team will handle preliminary documentation and orderly departure procedures. Deportees will be segregated into those who are bound for Tawi-tawi, Sulu and Zamboanga. Those bound for Sulu and Zamboanga will be provided with a separate vessel arrangement after Tawi-tawi-bound deportees have been ferried.

Six holding sites have been identified in Bongao, Tawi-tawi as temporary holding centers for deportees arriving from Sandacan. These are Pajod, Nalil, Sirnandagit, Kasulatan Beach, rehabilitation center and Pag-asa basketball court. Social welfare teams have been set up in these holding sites to provide food, facilitate documentation and transportation assistance to enable deportees to go back to their respective places of origin.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development central office has recently transferred P1 million to DSWD Region 9 to cover expenses related to the deportees. Another P1 million is earmarked as stand-by fund.

The DSWD Region 9 has coordinated with the provincial social welfare and development officers (PSWDOs) of Tawi-tawi and Sulu to prepare for the Sabah deportees operations. To facilitate resource augmentation, the PSWDOs will be allowed to locally purchase relief requirements such as hot meals upon arrival and community cooking while at the evacuation centers.

—RUEL G. LUCENTALES,
assistant secretary,
Department of Social Welfare and Development,
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Neither foreign nor terrorist FTO

I AM greatly disturbed by the US government's designation of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army as a foreign terrorist organization. Let us get this straight: The CPP-NPA is neither a foreign group nor a terrorist organization, under our laws.

It is Joma Sison, with his old cold war rhetoric, inciting the NPA to blow up power lines and engage in other terrorist activities like political assassinations despite the ongoing peace negotiations that has provoked this psychopathic reaction from the Americans. Sison sounds like a mad dog, fulminating against the US paranoia, as much as President Macapagal-Arroyo railing against the supposed terrorism of the NPA.

As a Dutch national, I am proud of my government for supporting the struggle of the Filipino people for true freedom and democracy. But I do feel ashamed when I see Sison abusing the hospitality that the Dutch people, including myself, have extended to him. He should shut up and be man enough to come home and join the struggle on Philippine soil.

I don't think Rep. Etta Rosales has anything to worry about, even if many of the NGOs funded by European organizations are left-leaning and sympathetic to the cause of the NPA, without necessarily supporting the armed struggle. We can fairly assume that the Dutch government has felt the same sympathy, especially during the martial law years, when it allowed the NPA to maintain its offices in Utrecht.

We would still be suffering under the Marcos tyranny if it were not for the National Democratic Front and its allied NGOs who finally brought an end to the hated Marcos dictatorship.

Luis Jalandoni very recently assured me that the NDF is still committed to resume the peace talks, but not—and rightly so—if their freedom fighters here are being hunted down as terrorists by US military forces.

—ARNOLD VAN VUGT,
Horeb Center,
Cagayan de Oro City

Chinese firms copying Japanese motorcycles

WE at the Motorcycle Development Program Participants Association (MDPPA), an organization composed mostly of Japanese manufacturers based in the Philippines, read with interest Ramon Tulfo's column last July 29, where he stated that Japanese motorcycle manufacturers "are starting to scatter the negative propaganda that Chinese bikes are cheap because they easily break down" and that Japanese manufacturers "are availing themselves of highly skilled and cheap labor in China" to make their motorcycles and cars.

We would like to point out that neither the MDPPA nor any Japanese motorcycle manufacturer operating in the Philippines is in the habit of attacking competitors, much less criticizing Chinese-made motorcycles. We welcome the competition these Chinese motorcycle manufacturers provide.

What we won't tolerate is the fact that most Chinese-made motorcycles are copycats of Japanese models. They violate provisions of our intellectual property code which is the bedrock of investments here in the Philippines. If you need support for our assertions, we will be willing to share with you proof that Chinese-made motorcycles being sold here were copied from our models.

When Japanese motorcycle manufacturers set up shop here in the Philippines, they employed mostly Filipino workers. Our members are dutiful corporate citizens responsible for employing thousands of Filipino workers. Most of the Filipino workers who help in producing high-quality Japanese motorcycles used by over three million Filipinos, are very skilled and highly educated. They are world-class. That's why Japanese motorcycles here are considered to be at par with their counterparts abroad.

Again, we are not against Chinese motorcycle manufacturers. We welcome their investments here in the Philippines. We even encouraged them to invest here and be a part of our organization, just like Kymco, a Taiwanese motorcycle manufacturer which is among our members.

What we want is for some of these unscrupulous Chinese manufacturers to follow Philippine laws and regulations, particularly with respect to the intellectual property code. Not only that, they should also follow the regulations set by the Board of Investments, the Bureau of Customs and the Tariff Commission. We would also like to call on local government officials to strictly implement the law and admonish those who violate it.

Let us be one in our desire to serve the greater interests of the Filipino people.

Let us also help the Filipino people have a safer ride.

—MATEO B. OCENAR, president,
Motorcycle Development Program Participants Association Inc., Suite 1206, 12/F Jollibee Center, San Miguel Ave., Pasig City

Spare the youth from learning dirty politics

THE CALL of Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez to nullify the results of the Sangguniang Kabataan election in Iloilo City based on the resolution signed by 50 SK chairpersons of the city complaining about "serious irregularities" is not an isolated case but a national phenomenon.

This continuing menace in the institutionalization of youth participation in governance has long been happening since the inception of the SK. No wonder many elected SK officials are either the scion or youth political pawns of the local officials.

While the Constitution prohibits political dynasties from being formed, the youth are being used to bastardize this constitutional provision.

Congress should abolish the SK and institutionalize youth representation in governance with a system that is free from dirty political machination. Let us spare our young people from being exposed and consequently learn the ways of dirty politics!

—EDWIN CHINEL MONARES,
faculty member, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Sta. Mesa, Manila

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SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
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Website: http://www.sss.gov.ph

Visit the SSS website (SSS.gov.ph) for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

MODULAR FURNITURE

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) is inviting office furniture suppliers for the supply and installation of System & Contract Furniture for the new office space of SSS Alabang Branch Office:

Lot I - System Furniture - 2 years experience in manufacture of System Furniture, with plant facilities
Lot II - Contract Furniture - 2 years experience in manufacture of customized furniture
Lot III - Seating - 2 years experience in the supply of office chairs

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P4,501,840.00
Source of Funding: Capital Expenditures
Delivery Period: Forty-five (45) calendar days

Interested bidders must secure the Eligibility Requirements from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Only eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee of P1,000.00. For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers 922-2991 and 920-6401 local 5490/5491. The deadline for the submission of eligibility documents is on 11 September 2002.

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) MIGUEL E. ROCA, JR.
Senior Vice President and Chairman
Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – Aug 28, 2002)

National Power Corporation
SMALL POWER UTILITIES GROUP

INVITATION TO BID
SPUG-MMSS-02-0016

Interested suppliers are invited to submit sealed bids to be opened publicly at the National Power Corporation, Small Power Utilities Group, 2nd Flr. Training Center bldg., BIR Road Cor. Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

INQUIRY NO.	DESCRIPTION	OPENING DATE	TIME
PB020912 - PDJB1240	VARIOUS SPARE PARTS FOR 1224 KW CKD	PREBID: 09/06/02 OPEN: 9/12/02	10:00 AM 10:00 AM
PB020912 - PDEM1241	JOB ORDER: TO SUPPLY LABOR & MATL'S. OF TANK CLEANING	PREBID: 09/06/02 OPEN: 09/12/02	02:00 PM 02:00 PM
PB020913 - PDEM1242	JOB ORDER: TO SUPPLY LABOR & MATL'S. OF DRYDOCKING	PREBID: 09/05/02 OPENING: 09/13/02	10:00 AM 10:00 AM
PB020916 - PDJB1244	VARIOUS COOLING SYSTEM	PRE-BID: 09/05/02 OPENING: 09/16/02	02:00 PM 10:00 AM
PB020911 - PDEM1243	VARIOUS DALE PARTS	SEPT. 11, 2002	02:00 PM
SC (2) 020809 - PDAM1203	CRANKSHAFT FOR CKD	AUG. 28, 2002	10:00 AM

Bidding documents will be available to qualified interested parties starting AUGUST 27, 2002 upon payment of P 100.00 per schedule, which is non-refundable and upon presentation of company I.D., and company authorization. Issuance and receipts of documents are done every morning between 8:00 to 11:30 AM only at the above address.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT SERVICES SECTION
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
PSD-SPUG

(PDI--Aug. 28, 2002)

Cheney: Attack on Iraq Bush's decision alone

CRAWFORD, Texas—The White House Monday charged foes of military action on Iraq with willful blindness to the mortal threat Baghdad poses and said launching an attack is US President George W. Bush's decision alone.

Amid slipping public support for ousting Saddam Hussein and a growing chorus of skepticism about Bush's Iraq policy, Vice President Dick Cheney made the administration's most forceful case yet for military action.

"What we must not do in the face of a mortal threat is to give in to wishful thinking or willful blindness," Cheney said in a speech to the national convention of Veterans of Foreign Wars in Nashville, Tennessee.

"We will not simply look away, hope for the best and leave the matter for some future administration to resolve," he added, saying that the United States would work with its allies but had a moral obligation to act.

Cheney said Washington would pursue thus-far vain efforts to rally its allies and nations in the region behind military action but hammered home the point that the world cannot wait until Saddam acquires nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile, Bush spokesperson Ari Fleischer confirmed White House lawyers have concluded that the president does not need congressional approval to launch an attack against Iraq.

"That is the determination of the White House counsel," Fleischer said as the US leader enjoyed a month-long vacation on his beloved Prairie Chapel ranch near this fly-speck town.

Fleischer said the determination was akin to similar pronouncements regarding the 1991 Gulf War waged by Bush's father, former president George Bush, and the strikes former president Bill Clinton ordered against Serb forces in Kosovo in 1999.

He said the lawyers based their ruling on three factors: the US Constitution, which names the president commander-in-chief of the US military; the 1991 Gulf War resolution by Congress; and last year's congressional resolution approving the use of force in the war on terrorism. *AFP*

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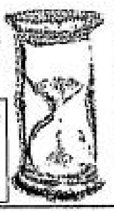

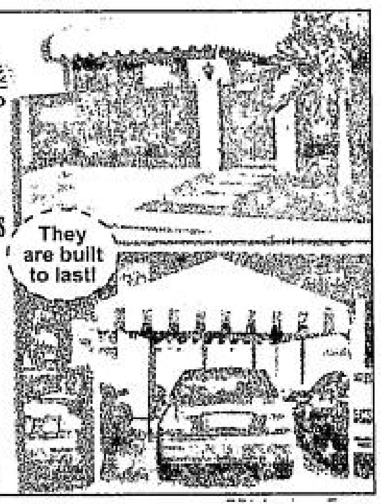
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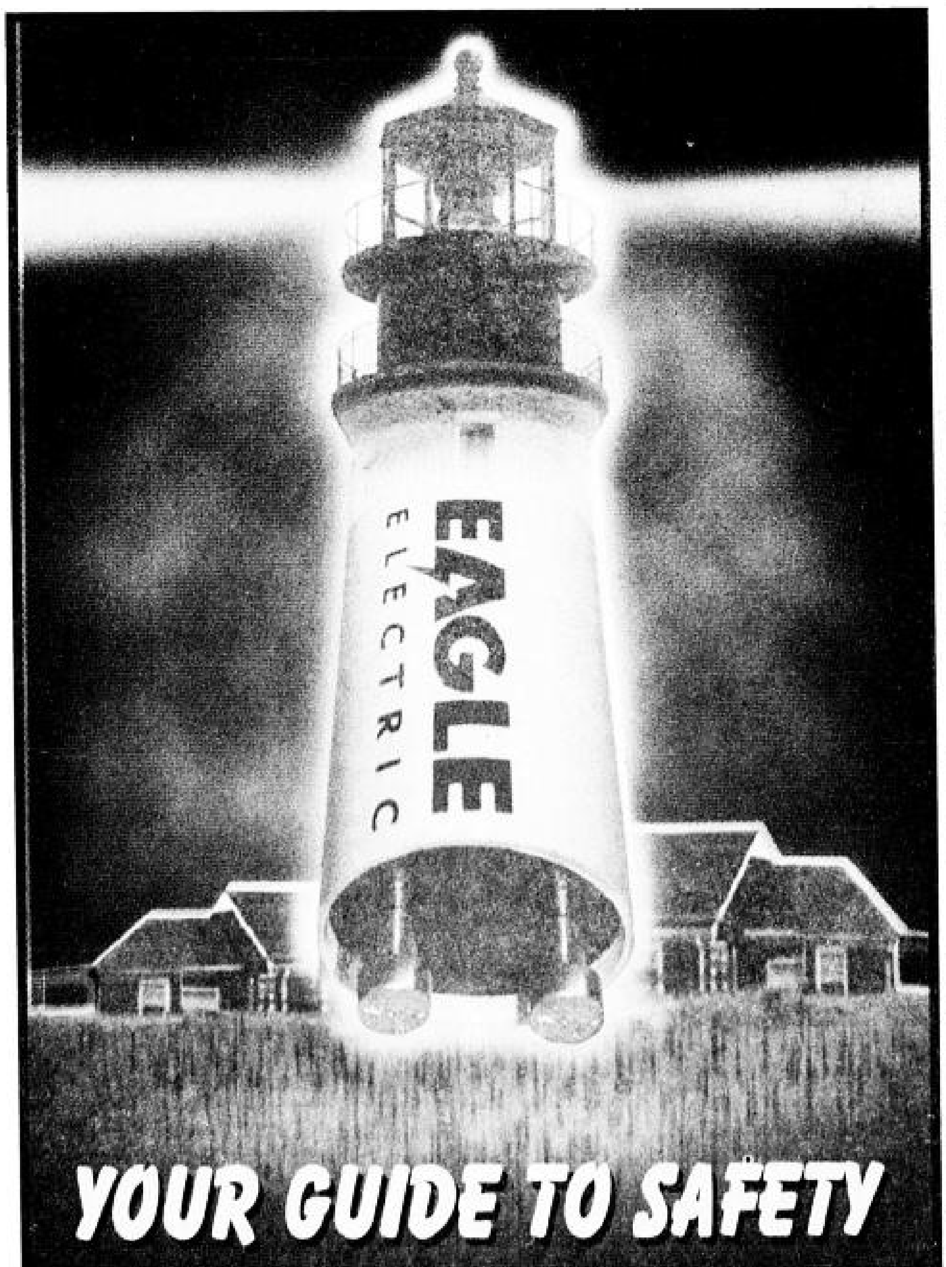

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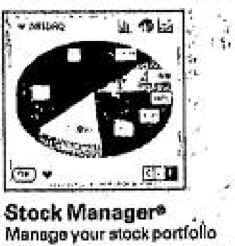

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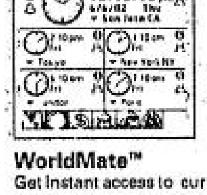

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Say it with Feelings with SMART MMS CardToons

When it's all said and done, people just want to say "hi" to those most important to them. This holds true especially for Filipinos, a race famous worldwide for being sentimental and family-centric. When big holidays like Christmas or Valentine's Day draw near, there is never a dearth of greeting cards being sent and received going cross-country and abroad. This is just what we are, and we're proud of it. The arrival of e-mail has added an online element to greeting cards, as we can now send wishes and goodwill at an even faster rate, across the world.

Now comes the newest method of sending greetings, SMART MMS CardToons. As an integral part of SMART MMS technology, the latest and most entertaining way to greet a friend or loved one. It's amazing how messages can be so moving. More than just e-cards, SMART MMS CardToons gives you animated images in full color to go with your message. And only SMART gives you the widest array of cards to choose from. Choose from occasion to general, or even have your favorite Celebrity Pal grace your greetings.

Want Joyce Jimenez to greet your boss on his birthday? How about having Ruffa Mae Quintos congratulate your best friend on his recent promotion? With SMART CardToons, all these are possible! Just key in CARDTOONS and send to 211 for details on what images are available and which SMART Celebrity Pals can liven up your greeting.

We may or may not admit it, but Filipinos love getting greeting cards almost as much as we love giving them. They are an affirmation that somebody else cares about us and took the time to greet us on either a special occasion or just because "it felt good". SMART CardToons has made sending good feelings and wishes even simpler and faster.

FunPix Animates Your SMART Celfone!

"Cartoons on my celfone?" Sounds impossible, doesn't it? Regular telephones have long promised a video element to them in order to complete the audio-visual experience of communicating between people despite long distances. With the evolution and popularity of the cellular phone however, it seems the landline's promise will be fulfilled by its mobile sibling instead. We've been able to send text messages and subsequently picture messages to give an additional element to the way we communicate. And although texts and pictures are nice, the prospect of colored or even animated messages is exciting, isn't it?

Well that dream has now become a reality! Whether it's the amazing Spider-Man, the groovy Austin Powers, or the colorful characters from "Slam Dunk", SMART MMS FunPix will bring these unique individuals in full color and complete audio and video in your celfone! As part of SMART MMS technology, SMART MMS FunPix brings new color and life to your SMART GSM celfone as no other technology has ever done before. Imagine seeing the hottest anime from the SMART Anime Mania as well as the biggest stars from the blockbusters of the SMART Cinema Club moving and shaking as animated screensavers all on your celfone.

Larger than life characters now move your world on the small screen through SMART MMS FunPix! Watch as agents J and K fight alien scum and save the world in the process in "Men in Black II". Be amazed as Steve, Mark, Big Bert, Little John, and Jamie volt in to form Voltes V. Swing to the funky grooves of Austin Powers and Foxxy Cleopatra from "Austin Powers in Goldmember". Simply key in FUNPIX and send to 211 for the different keywords and access numbers to gain access to images and animated screensavers that are ready for you to download today. Breathe new life into your world by bringing the coolest anime characters, the freshest stars, the hottest celebrities and the wackiest cartoon characters into your celfone with SMART MMS FunPix today.

SMART RealPix: Images Come to Life

Life is a beautiful thing. There are so many situations where the unique occurrences in life are so amazing, so astounding, that they just can't be captured or repeated. For ever since man can remember, he has strived to capture life, nature, and the beauty that comes with them through drawing and art. With the advent of the camera and photography, it became easier to capture this beauty as with a press of a button and a click on the camera, the picture was yours. Digital imaging has brought the world digital cameras and the ability to edit photographs through computers Now if you take the capacity to take pictures and merge it with a mobile phone, what new groundbreaking piece of technology do you have?

The answer is SMART RealPix. SMART MMS introduces SMART RealPix, capturing and sharing life's moments with a few clicks on your SMART Nokia 7650 celfone. Life's joys have never been this easy to shoot and distribute. For once you've taken your digital picture, you can send SMART RealPix complete with audio and video to family and friends to complete the experience

Unbelievable you say? Not so, courtesy of SMART MMS and your Nokia 7650, the latest mobile phone with a built-in camera! To activate your MMS feature, simply key in SET MMS and send to 211. Once you receive the settings, save them all and viola!, you're all set to capture memorable moments anytime, anywhere. You can travel abroad and send pictures back home for friends to see in a flash. Whether it's a nature trek or a mountain hike, SMART RealPix allows you to grab hold of nature's beauty and share it with those close to you in a way never before possible.

Forwarding good wishes, with the ease of a camera in the package of a celfone. With SMART RealPix, the simple joys of being with friends or having a meal with family can be imparted to those people who can't be with us. Precious moments like the birth of a child or a family reunion won't have to be missed anymore.

SMART RealPix, completing the experience of living at the ease of your fingertips

Ringtones of the Future from SMART MMS PolyTones

Ringtones tell other people what kind of personality you have. It's a given, it's a fact. With the customization of cellular phones, people have been stamping their personalities on their phones via operator logos, screensavers, celfone casing, but more obviously with their ringtones. Individuals spend hours composing ringtones for themselves or their friends, and saving them on their celfones. Whether it's the latest pop hits, movie themes, love songs, or classics, the ringing of the cellular phone to different beats has become commonplace in the Philippines.

As fun as the composing and listening to ringtones has become, it's only natural that technological improvements would mean even better quality for ringtones today and for the future. Well, the future has just arrived.

SMART MMS introduces SMART MMS Poly Tones, polyphonic ringtones that are as close to the real music or song can now be heard. From now on, you'll listen to the truth. Get calls that sound as true as they can get with Polyphonic tones on SMART MMS. And only SMART can bring you the latest and hottest music. Choose from SMART's wide array of text tunes or download the hottest tracks from the movies via the SMART Cinema Club.

Do you want to hear John Mayer's "Back to You" with the illusion of more instruments? Or how about "Cry" from the hit movie "A Walk to Remember"? If you like Linkin Park, you can download the hit song 'My December" from their latest album - "Reanimation." Get all these, plus a colored image of the album, when you access Smart Music Link's MMS collection.

Wouldn't it be so much better to hear the tones with more than one beeping noise and the impression of a virtual orchestra instead? Key in POLYTONES and send to 211 for further details on what hot ringtones are available for download today.

SMART MMS Poly Tones is what ringtones were meant to be, with more instruments, more beats, and more lively than ever before. Enjoy the latest advancement in cellular phone audio with SMART MMS Poly Tones now!

SMART MMS TrafPix is Paving the Way!

Traffic. The mere mention of the word is enough to drive people crazy. In a country where everyone enjoys driving, yet everyone thinks they own the road, traffic has become a constant source of frustration, anger, and outright outrage. People go out of their way to avoid traffic in every way imaginable. Whether it's by using Metro Manila's sidestreets or wasting time at a mall while waiting for traffic to dissipate, Filipinos seem to be constantly looking for means to steer clear of the mess. Wouldn't it be great to know what traffic you might potentially be facing?

SMART MMS now presents a whole new means of being forewarned on the traffic situation. SMART MMS Traf Pix gives you digital snapshots from up to 20 strategic points across Metro Manila, all at the convenience of your own celfone! As part of SMART MMS technology, you can gain the upper hand in your constant struggle to avoid and evade the nightmare we know as traffic. Using your SMART MMS-enabled celfone, you can quickly access SMART MMS TrafPix at a few clicks of your celfone. If you're in a rush to make it to a luncheon in the area of EDSA and Buendia, you can be aware of how clogged the lanes might be by keying in MTRAF BUENDEDSA and send to 311. To learn more about how to use SMART's new traffic-awareness service through your MMS-ready SMART GSM celfone, key in MTRAF HELP and send to 311.

Concerned that friends and family might be caught in traffic as well? With SMART MMS Traf Pix, you can also forward those digital snapshots to your friends and loved ones so that they won't have to waste valuable time sitting through the bottlenecks across the metro. If you have to pick up the kids in the Greenhills area, you can be aware of where most of the cars are heading and make plans on what route is free to use whether it's via Guadalupe-Edsa or the Makati-Mandaluyong Bridge through SMART MMS TrafPix.

"Time is of the essence," as the old saying goes. And traffic is clearly a waste of time. Another saying states that "time is money." Being stuck in traffic thus keeps people from making money at their jobs. With SMART TrafPix and SMART MMS, you can save on all the time and money you might be wasting while caught in Metro Manila's traffic.

So get yourself hooked and set a clear path through traffic today!

Take advantage of these great offers from SMART!

- Subscribe to a SMART Gold plan and get the Nokia 7650 for as low as ₱17,000
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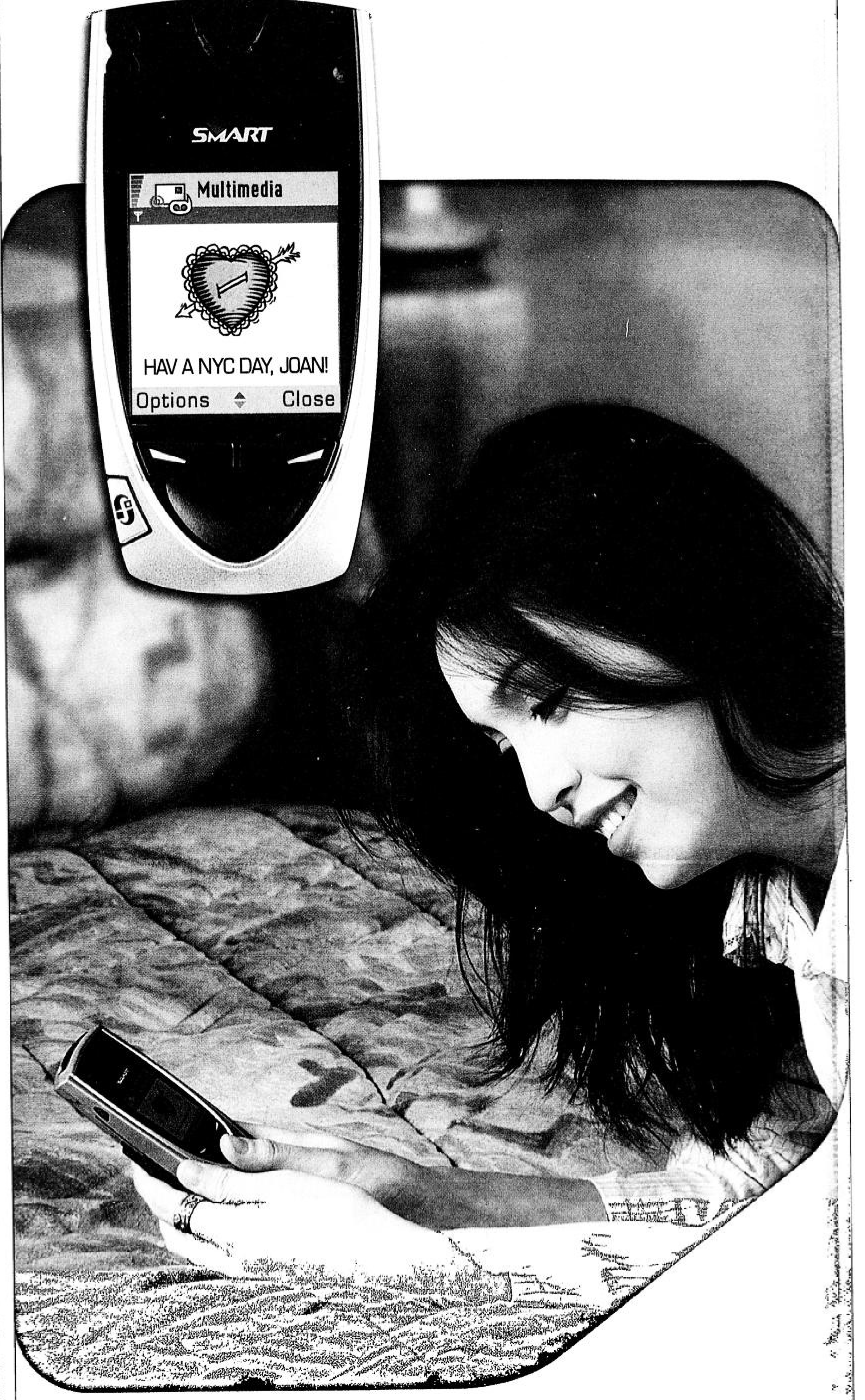

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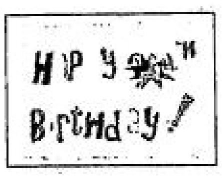

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Global society based on poverty cannot survive, summit told

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—Leaders attending the opening of a United Nations summit on development Monday demanded concrete action to protect nature's remains while boosting living standards for billions of the world's poorest inhabitants.

Rampant consumerism and industrialized greed continue to plunder rainforests and choke the atmosphere with pollution, delegates said, while desperately poor people drain their lands of water, topsoil and wildlife just to stay alive.

"A global human society based on poverty for many and prosperity for a few, characterized by islands of wealth, surrounded by a sea of poverty, is unsustainable," South African President Thabo Mbeki told delegates at the opening session of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

About 30 km away, a more colorful, but less organized, summit of civil society representatives, struggled to gain momentum.

Delegates there sang and danced, waved placards and meditated, while campaigning for everything from better access to clean water to world peace. One sculptor fashioned penguins from ice with a chain saw, leaving them to melt in the sun to represent the effects of global warming.

However, the announced keynote speaker, former South African President Nelson Mandela, never showed up. His office said the organizers never told him about it.

The government summit is being held in Sandton, Africa's glitziest commercial district of palatial marble-and-glass towers looming over the squalid township of Alexandra, where many people live in the very hopeless conditions the summit seeks to erase.

The summit, being held in a convention center attached to a massive shopping mall and business complex, was sealed off by concrete barriers and metal fences. An 8,000-person security force is deployed to help prevent the kind of violence seen in recent international meetings in Seattle and Genoa, Italy.

In the event's first protests Monday, Zimbabwean and Ethiopian opposition activists peacefully demonstrated against their governments.

Organizers expect the biggest protest to take place Saturday, when about 400 groups plan to march from Alexandra to the conference center.

Unlike the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, which opened with two minutes of silence for a "dying" planet, delegates here immediately delved into clear-eyed assessments of the world's most pressing needs, including energy, bio-diversity, food security, clean water and health care.

By the time more than 100 heads of state arrive next week, negotiators hope to have hammered out a detailed timetables for tackling those problems. *AP*

Yangtze spares Wuhan City

WUHAN, China—China's swollen Yangtze River spared the southern city of Wuhan on Tuesday, but its flood crest raced downstream threatening other cities downriver, officials and state media said.

Authorities in cities further down the nation's largest river urged flood control workers to stay vigilant as the onrush of water bore down on them.

A huge swell triggered by heavy rains upstream has flowed down the Yangtze in recent days, sending hundreds of thousands of civilians and soldiers scrambling to shore up dikes to head off potential catastrophe.

In the city of Jiujiang, downriver in neighboring Jiangxi province, officials urged people not to be "blindly optimistic," the state news agency Xinhua said on its Web site.

"The city government has issued two urgent notices calling on every county and city along rivers or lakes to overcome indifference and a sense of good luck," the agency said.

Jiujiang had mobilized 24-hour patrols to monitor embankments and 40,000 civilians and troops were ready to fight breaches, Xinhua said.

Summer floods and landslides have killed more than 900 people in China and the government is trying to head off a repeat of 1998, when weeks of relentless rains fueled the country's worst floods in decades and more than 4,000 people were killed. *Reuters*

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Retail and Franchise Management

Merchandise Management	Sept. 7 - Oct. 5, 2002
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Offered in partnership with Phil. Retailers Association (PRA) and the Phil. Franchise Association (PFA), each course is scheduled every Saturday from 1:00-7:00 PM & 9:00-6:00PM on the last day. Course fee per course is Php6,250.00 for PRA/PFA members and Php6,750.00 for non-members.

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Offered in partnership with the Phil. Association of National Advertisers (PANA), each course is scheduled every Saturday from 1:00-7:00 PM at the CSB-International Conference Center. Course fee per participant is Php 7,750.00 for PANA members and Php 8,750.00 for non-members.

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Curriculum Design and Development	Sept. 7 - Oct. 12, 2002
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News organizations fight subpoena of US reporter

THE HAGUE, Netherlands—International news organizations are supporting The Washington Post as it contests a decision by the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal that a retired reporter must testify before it.

A brief submitted to the court on behalf of 34 organizations on Aug. 17 and released Monday seeks to protect journalists reporting from war zones from subpoenas.

The media groups urged the tribunal "to recognize a qualified privilege for journalists not to be compelled to testify about their news gathering before this court unless certain conditions are met—namely that the information is absolutely essential to the case and that it cannot be obtained by any other means."

The group—including Cable News Network, The Associated Press, The New York Times and the British Broadcasting Corp.—asked a five-member appeals panel to reconsider a subpoena issued by a lower court against former Washington Post correspondent Jonathan Randal.

"Whatever the standard applied by this court is, it will set a precedent, not only in courts, but also on the battlefield," the 32-page brief stated.

Randal has been ordered to testify in the trial of Radoslav Brdjanin, a Bosnian Serb charged with genocide in Bosnia.

"Forcing journalists to testify against their sources (confidential or otherwise) will make future sources more hesitant to talk to the press, particularly in war zones," the document said.

A three-member trial chamber had found that Randal had no grounds on which to refuse to testify and that his case didn't involve freedom of the press.

The ruling stated that the reporter had insufficient grounds to refuse to testify against Brdjanin because he wasn't in any danger and Randal had already revealed his source.

Randal is the first journalist to refuse to give evidence at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, established in 1993 by the United Nations to try Balkan war crimes suspects. *AP*

Why can geckos climb up surfaces smooth as glass?

WASHINGTON—Tiny little hairs and not any kind of chemical glue help a gecko race up and down vertical surfaces as smooth as glass, US researchers reported on Monday.

The finding could help scientists invent better adhesives that will work virtually anywhere, the researchers at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, the University of California and Stanford University said.

"We have solved a centuries-old mystery of what makes a gecko's toes so sticky," Lewis and Clark's Kellar Autumn, a biologist, said in telephone interview.

Geckos and their ability to climb and hang virtually everywhere are hardly unknown to science, but biologists had not really understood how they did it.

At first it was assumed they had glue on their toes, but close examination with electron microscopes shows they have millions of tiny hairs called setae.

A seta is only about 100 micrometers long—about the width of two human hairs. Each seta ends with 1,000 even tinier pads at the tip.

One seta can lift the weight of an ant. A million setae, which could easily fit onto the area of a dime, could lift a 20-kg (45-pound) child and a gecko using all of its setae at the same time could support 125 kg (280 pounds), the researchers said.

The tiny pads work through a molecular attraction called van der Waal's forces. "We confirmed it's geometry, not surface chemistry, that enables a gecko to support its entire body with a single toe," Autumn, who studies biomechanics, said.

Van der Waal's force keeps molecules together.

This is good news for Autumn's colleagues, who are trying to invent better adhesives. *Reuters*

Court admits Japan used bio warfare

TOKYO—A Tokyo court acknowledged for the first time Japan's use of biological weapons before and during World War II, but rejected Tuesday demands for compensation by 180 Chinese who claimed they were victims of the germ warfare program.

The Tokyo District Court ruled that, under international law, foreign citizens cannot seek compensation directly from the Japanese government.

However, the court acknowledged Japan's germ warfare program existed and that court testimony from the Chinese victims was "reasonable" enough to believe. It was the first time a Japanese court had recognized Japan's use of biological weapons before and during the war.

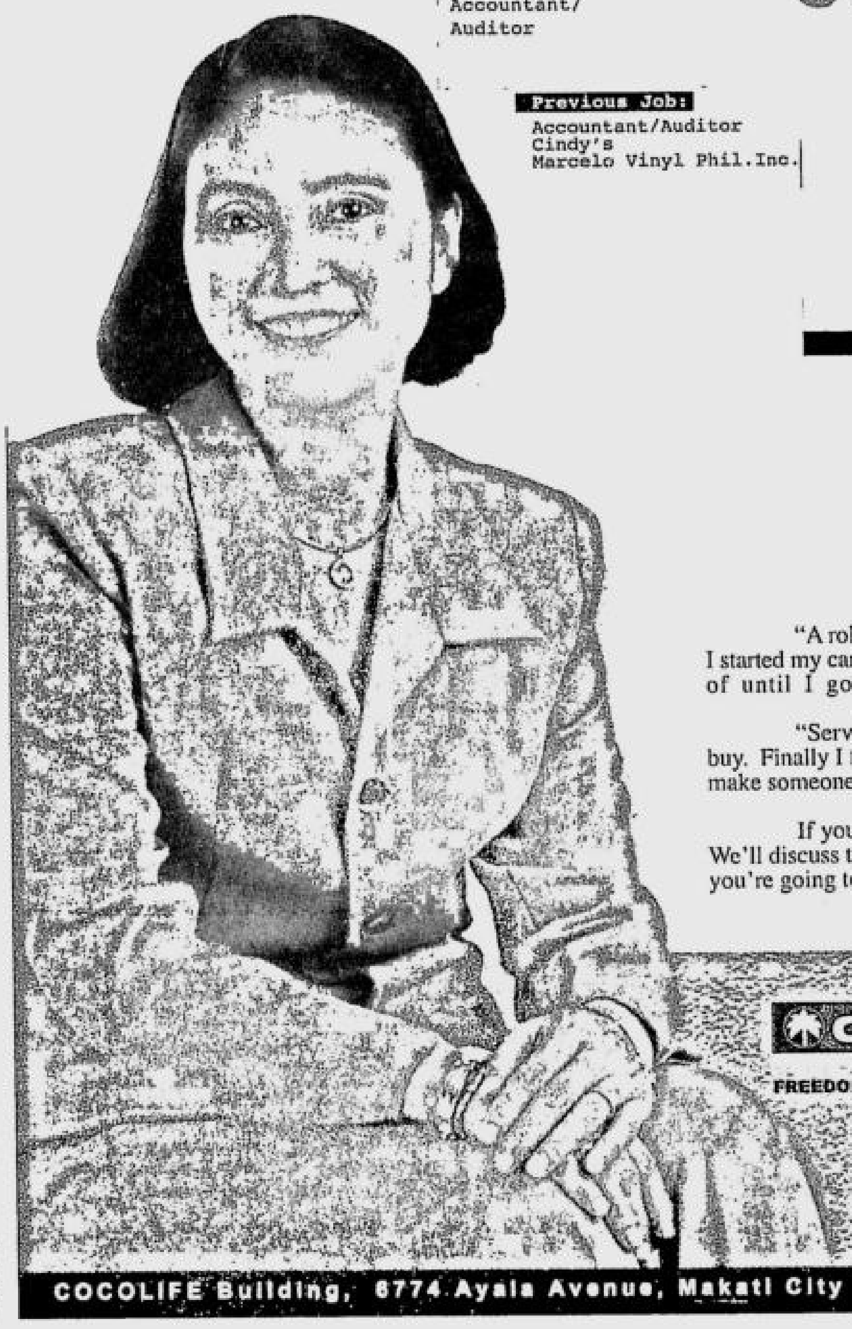
The case was filed in 1997 by the plaintiffs—all Chinese citizens—who had demanded 10 million yen ($84,000) each.

The plaintiffs claimed at least 2,100 Chinese perished in outbreaks of cholera, dysentery, anthrax and typhoid that were allegedly mass produced by the Imperial Army's notorious Unit 731, which was based in the northeastern Chinese city of Harbin. The court has heard testimony from aging witnesses flown in from China.

The case has been closely followed in Japan because it has unearthed details about the country's biological warfare program that the government and US occupation forces kept secret after the war.

Some Japanese veterans had testified they mass-produced cholera, dysentery, anthrax and typhoid at the unit's base in Harbin in the early 1940s.

Japan has refused to confirm those accounts. After decades of denial, Tokyo acknowledged the existence of Unit 731 several years ago, but has yet to disclose details of the unit's activities. AP



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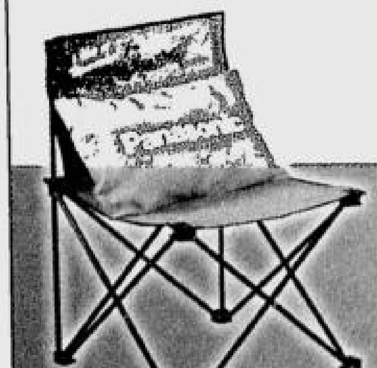

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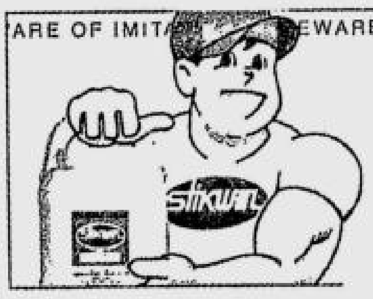

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Antonia Maria A. Ley, *Sequoia NBO (2nd time qualifier)*
Evelyne S. Yu, *Maple NBO (2nd time qualifier)*
Soledad G. Castro, *Olive NBO (2nd time qualifier)*
Sotera D. Casantosan, *Molave NBO (2nd time qualifier)*
Gemma R. Sodusta, *Banyan NBO (1st time qualifier)*
Helen G. Uy, *Osmanthus NBO (1st time qualifier)*
Lanie C. Lim, *Osmanthus NBO (1st time qualifier)*
Jefferson U. Tecson, *Jacaranda NBO (1st time qualifier)*
Isabelita A. Gonzales, *Mulawin NBO (1st time qualifier)*

Muriel A. Gaurano, *Eucalyptus NBO (1st time qualifier)*
Marlyn P. Jacinto, *Olive NBO (1st time qualifier)*
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Sofronio B. Gevero, *Banyan NBO (1st time qualifier)*
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Journalist's slay witness harassed

PAGADIAN CITY—Hooded gunmen tried to seize the wife of one of the witnesses in the murder of crusading journalist Edgar Damalerio.

Rosalie Ungue, 30, wife of Edgar Ungue, told police probers that she was walking towards a retail store in Barangay Sumadat in Dumalinao, Zamboanga del Sur on Aug. 26 when two hooded gunmen grabbed her.

The Ungues had settled in the village after Edgar testified against the alleged gunman, PO1 Guillermo Wapille.

Rosalie said that before grabbing her hand, one of the suspects spoke to her to ascertain her identity.

"Are you not Ungue's wife?" one of the suspects allegedly asked her. When she said yes, the suspects tried to drag her into a waiting motorcycle in full view of some terrified residents.

Rosalie told the police that she lost consciousness, forcing the suspects to leave her behind.

The gunmen allegedly went towards this city.

Edgar Amoro, also a witness in the death of the journalist, said it was possible that the incident was meant to force Ungue to recant his testimony against Wapille.

"Because they constantly look for ways to silence us for good," Amoro said.

The failed abduction of Rosalie was only one of the tricks that the masterminds in the Damalerio slay case have tried to use, Amoro pointed out.

On Aug. 10, the third potential witness was also murdered.

Jovy Lobitana, also known as Jury Ladica, had claimed in a handwritten testimony that he was the first to be approached to kill Damalerio.

Lobitana, who went to the National Bureau of Investigation in Metro Manila last month, told investigators that a PO3 Ricardo Lapinig of the Pagadian City police intelligence unit offered him P50,000 to kill the journalist.

But he said he declined the offer after learning that Damalerio was not in the military's order of battle. The slain potential witness was a military asset.

Lapinig died ahead of Damalerio.

Four unidentified suspects gunned him down near his house along Leon Kilat Street, Santiago District here in April.

In San Pablo City, slain crusading journalist Sonny Alcantara was laid to rest yesterday after a funeral Mass at the San Pablo Cathedral attended by relatives, friends and members of the press in Laguna.

Alcantara's wife, Annie, and three children were in deep grief amid a tense but quiet atmosphere prevailing in the entire duration of the funeral ceremony and march to the cemetery.

Very few newsmen and individuals dared to comment on Alcantara's death as it was linked to a former mayor of this city, who, in turn, has accused his political enemies for the allegations.

Arvin Carandang, a colleague of Alcantara, said members of the Laguna print and broadcast media, together with representatives from the National Press Club, had issued a statement denouncing his brutal murder. The INQUIRER has yet to obtain a copy of the statement.

Msgr. Jerry Bitoon condemned the senseless killing of Alcantara. "The broad daylight killing of Sonny Alcantara is the latest in the spate of killings in the streets of San Pablo, which gives a chilling message to media men and to anyone who would like to denounce evil," said Bitoon, head of the newly created "Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Sugal at Droga."

He added that, "since the PNP can't give greater police visibility, the citizenry is called upon to be more vigilant. Sometimes we have to fend for ourselves."*Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Probe of 2 coal-fired plants in Quezon urged

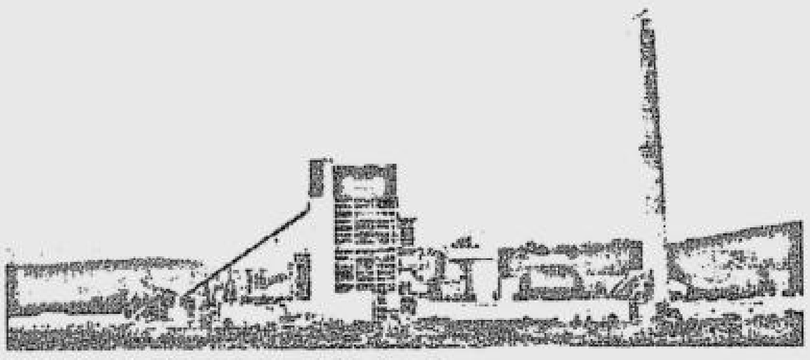
LUCENA CITY—The provincial board on Monday was thrown into near turmoil over whether to start an investigation of the operations of two coal-fired power plants in the province in the light of questions on their safety.

This, after President Macapagal-Arroyo told newsmen that she was not inclined to shut down coal-fired power plants in the country.

Board member Vicente Alcala urged the provincial council to start the probe on the 440-megawatt power plant in Mauban and the 600-MW plant in Pagbilao.

"If we do not start the investigation, I'm afraid we might be overtaken by the probe that has been going on in Congress and in the Senate. We should be ashamed of ourselves if that happens," Alcala told his colleagues.

However, Vice Gov. Jovito Talabong asked for at least two more weeks to accommodate the explanation of Quezon Power (Philippines) Ltd., the operator of Mauban plant, to the objection of most of the council members.


THE COAL-FIRED power plant in Mauban, Quezon. FILE PHOTO

Bart Lucarelli, QPL general manager, who was supposed to appear before the council on Monday, did not make it because he wanted to study the allegations by Greenpeace of the presence of toxic metals in the ash samples taken from the plant.

Board member Rommel Edano, during the last regular session, walked out of the hall in disgust over Talabong's maneuvers to derail the planned investigation.

On Aug. 19, President Macapagal-Arroyo told newsmen here that the Greenpeace allegations have to be validated first.

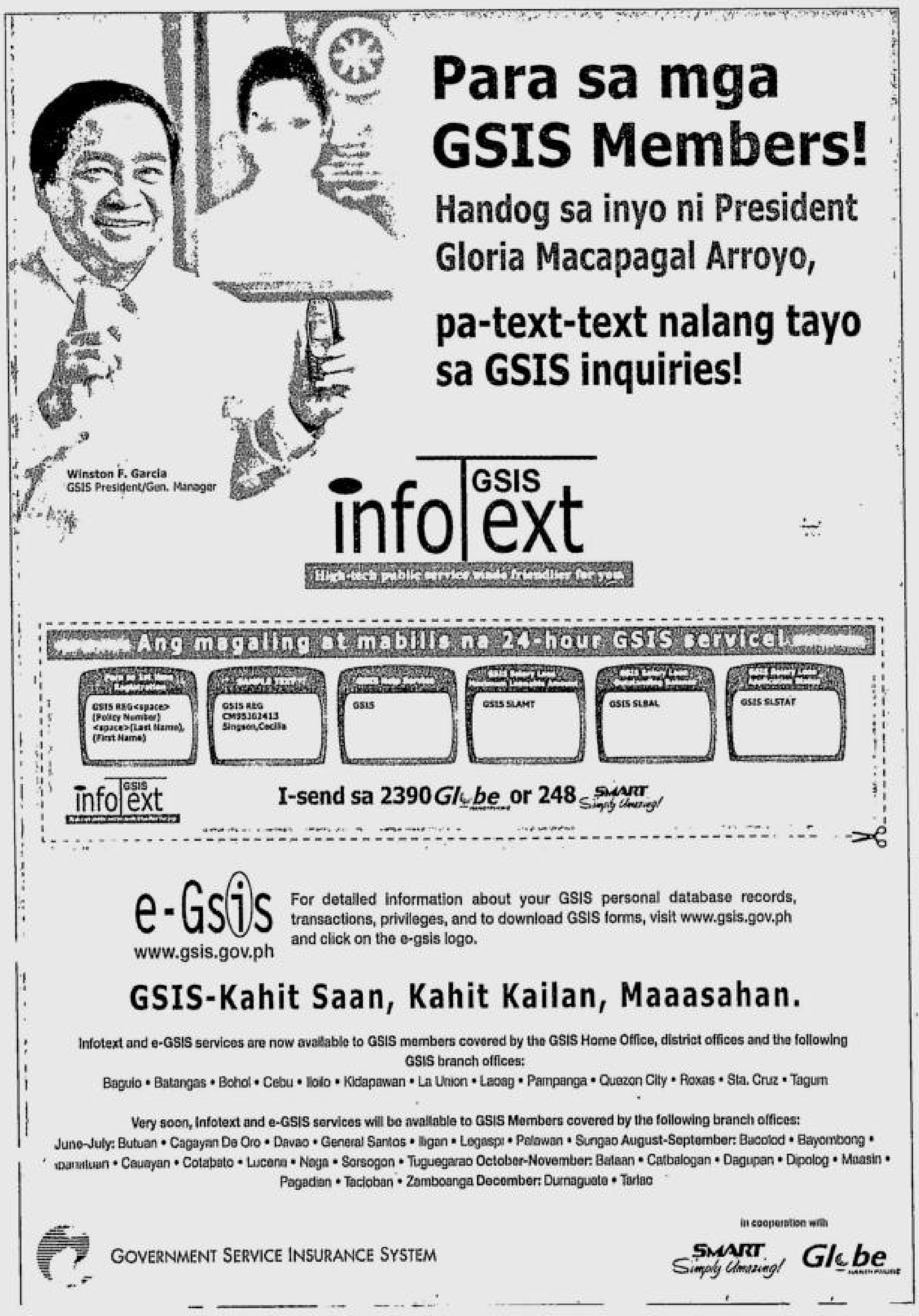
Greenpeace, an international environmental group, has been in the forefront of the campaign calling for the shutdown of coal-fired power plants in the country for alleged environmental destruction and threat to human life.

Red Constantino, Greenpeace energy campaigner, revealed in a testimony before the Quezon provincial board the alleged emission of toxic metals from the Mauban power plant based on the laboratory test conducted by the group.

QPL officials, however, denied the allegation.

Last week, Sen. Loren Legarda asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to shut down five coal-fired power plants because they were found to emit hazardous substances like "mercury" in violation of the Clean Air Act.

Constantino noted that for the first time in the country, "the public outcry for clean power contracts and clean energy resonates from virtually all levels of government. The provincial governments of Quezon and Pangasinan, for instance, have both initiated official processes investigating the ill-effects of coal-fired power plants operating in their areas." *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*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Leyte State U rejects Napocor tower on campus

BAYBAY, Leyte—Officials of the Leyte State University in this town have strongly objected to the plan of the National Power Corp. to construct its power transmission towers within the university grounds.

The LSU management has opposed the construction of the power transmission towers at their vicinity fearing that electromagnetic radiation might be harmful to the research section of the state university.

The proposed towers would pass through the abaca, tarsier, coconut and arboretum research areas, according to university president Paciencia Milan.

Health

"We don't want also to jeopardize the health of our students. They can have their tower on the ridge or beyond but not in our campus," Milan added.

Milan was referring to the ridge of the Pangasugan mountain range that walls the LSU campus on its north side. The Camotes Sea bound the campus on the south.

The issue was heatedly discussed on Thursday last week during a meeting of the Eastern Visayas Regional Development Council in Tacloban City.

Milan refused to succumb to pressure from local officials and from Presidential Assistant for Eastern Visayas Victor Domingo to grant the permit for the transmission towers.

Left-leaning?

Milan stood her ground even after Domingo insinuated that those who are opposing are left-leaning, according to an LSU official who was present in the meeting.

"It's not because we are opposing we are left-leaning. We also have the right to live and the right to express our grievances," the source quoted Milan as telling Domingo during the RDC meeting.

The transmission towers were vital components in the completion of the multibillion-peso Leyte-Bohol power interconnection. The power transmission lines is expected to bring electricity from the geothermal energy fields in Tungonan, Ormoc to Bohol. As proposed, it would pass through the LSU grounds to reach the shores of Maasin City in Southern Leyte, from where submarine cables laid down across the Bohol Sea would bring the electric power to Ubay, Bohol.

Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau

ROUNDUP

P800-M CDs seized

MEYCAUAYAN, Bulacan—Police and the Videogram Regulatory Board busted a group of Chinese and Indonesians producing pirated movie and audio compact discs in Barangay Iba here on Monday last week. At least 12 Chinese and Indonesians were arrested and P800 million worth of copying machines and CDs were seized during the raid on the Sterling Industrial Compound here. Chief Insp. Eliseo Saquilayan, chief of the provincial police's criminal investigation and detection team, said the group, which had been producing pirated CDs for export, had been operating the factory for three years now.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Bataan inmates escape

BALANGA CITY—Eight inmates at the Bataan provincial jail here escaped by sawing off the iron bar and destroying the roof of their cell on Friday night, police said. Police identified the inmates as Francis Taruc, Ismael Avelino, Ernesto Sartiga, Christopher Mosquera, Raymart Duena, Ricky Espenilla, Sonny Branzuela and Rolly Magayano. They are facing murder, robbery, car theft, rape and homicide cases, police records showed. Senior Supt. Sahiron Salim, Bataan police director, ordered the reinforcement of the provincial jail's security forces to prevent another incident.

Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

P3M for drought fund

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The provincial board of Cagayan has authorized provincial officials to release P3 million from their calamity fund to help farmers rehabilitate drought-affected farms. Vice Gov. Oscar Pagulayan, presiding officer of the board, said the amount will be used to buy high value commercial seeds and to rehabilitate water pumps and small impounding dams. Cagayan was earlier declared under a state of calamity after the drought destroyed 30 percent of crops in the province.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Syndicate members held

SOLANO, Nueva Vizcaya—Police here arrested Wednesday two suspected members of a syndicate responsible for the manufacture and sale of fake cellular phone prepaid cards. The suspects, Derwin Sanguil, 25, and his uncle Rosendo Perez, 34, were arrested after their car fell into a 70-meter deep ravine in Barangay Tactac in Sta. Fe town. The suspects' car crashed while it was being chased by the police. Seized from the suspects were P100,000 worth of fake Globe prepaid cards and about P5,000 worth of fake Talk 'N Text cards.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Illegal fishers caught

LEGAZPI CITY—Four fishermen were caught while in the act of illegal fishing at Sitio Gumaca, Barangay Tinapian, Baleno, Masbate. A police report identified the arrested suspects as Jaime Curimao, 58, Gomersendor La Guardia, 23, Ruben Cortez, 44, all married and residents of the place, and Joel Tambaga, 25, married and resident of Mobo, Masbate. Police confiscated dynamited fish from the suspects.

Melanie Valenciano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

For pig's sake

LEGAZPI CITY—Suspecting his neighbor as the one who shot his pig, Ronnie Esquilona shot Renante Golingan to death on Aug. 24, a police report said. Golingan, 22, single and a resident of Sitio Panal, Barangay Docul, Baleno, Masbate sustained bullet wounds on his head and body when Esquilona shot him while he was cleaning his backyard. Esquilona immediately surrendered to the Baleno police. A criminal charge is yet to be filed by the police against the suspect.

Melanie Valenciano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SK chair arrested

LEGAZPI CITY—Police arrested newly elected Sangguniang Kabataan chair Mark Anthony Rodriguez, 17, of Barangay del Sur, Pandan, Catanduanes for allegedly stabbing a student-resident of the same place at around 10 p.m., Friday. Eric Balmaceda, 16, single and resident of the same place sustained stab wounds on different parts of his body. Balmaceda is currently confined at the Pandan District Hospital. Both are residents of the same place.

Melanie Valenciano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Hagedorn to run

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Former city mayor Edward Hagedorn has filed his certificate of candidacy last Friday after the Commission on Elections approved a recall election on Sept. 7 against incumbent Mayor Victorino Dennis Socrates. It issued on Wednesday the implementing guidelines for the recall election, placing the city under election period. Socrates' legal counsel has confirmed that they had filed a motion for a temporary restraining order before the Supreme Court and are until now waiting for the decision. But Hagedorn is confident the election will push through.

Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

INQUIRER *Northern Luzon*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel** ◎ *Bureau Chief* **Rolando B. Fernandez**

Red Vigilantes go after 'bad cops'

By Tonette Orejas
Nueva Ecija

THERE'S the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer) and no less than its creator, President Macapagal-Arroyo, has been on a high-profile drive against criminality.

But in Nueva Ecija, the agricultural heartland of Central Luzon, a civilian armed group known as the Red Vigilante Group (RVG) expressed doubts that Pacer would make a lot of headway.

"Unless the President purges the PNP (Philippine National Police) of scalawags, criminals and coddlers of criminals, she could only do so much through Pacer," said RVG founder Ricardo Peralta in an exclusive interview with the INQUIRER.

In Nueva Ecija, for instance, Peralta claimed that police officials have "links with drug syndicates." He mentioned some names, one of them an official in the regional PNP, but asked that they be not identified because they are "subjects of operations."

Because the PNP had "stopped being the people's protector," Peralta, 33, who is a former New People's Army commander, said his group had become the "people's army."

The existence of the RVG and its executions, he pointed out, are his group's "strongest indictment of the PNP's (failure to curb criminality)."

Since its founding in 1998, Peralta admitted that the RVG had executed more than 20 people, most of them known illegal drug pushers in Gapan City.

An RVG supporter in Cabanatuan City said the vigilante organization had "offered a glimmer of hope (*nagbibigay pag-asa*) to those of us who cannot rely anymore on the PNP for help and justice."

In the province, the RVG is not an obscure group. "It is synonymous to justice," one of its supporters, a local businessman, said.

In Central Luzon, the bedrock of socialist and communist movements, the RVG is the first known vigilante group to exist side-by-side with the NPA, the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, the Rebolusyonaryong Gerilya ng Arayat (Pampanga) and the Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan.

These groups have been linked to the strings of extra-judicial killings of policemen, soldiers, criminals and landowners.

Beginnings

Peralta asked for an interview after police officials, in newspaper reports, portrayed the RVG as a criminal syndicate. Top police sources in the intelligence community likened it to the Kuratong Baleleng gang.

Like the notorious kidnap gang, whose members were killed by the police in an alleged shootout several years ago, police sources said the RVG had degenerated from a rabid executioner of drug traffickers into a criminal gang involved in kidnap-for-ransom and gun-for-hire activities.

The PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, in a complaint filed before the Department of Justice, "considered (the RVG) dangerous and numerous atrocities such as killing, robbery (holdup) and kidnapping are being attributed to the group."

The CIDG filed the complaint against the RVG on behalf of the family of forester Julio Alejo and his son Julius who were allegedly abducted and killed by the RVG in October last year.

The kidnap-for-ransom and robbery with force and violence case was the first of such complaint filed against the RVG.

A confidential document from the CIDG and the PNP's Regional Intelligence Office blamed the RVG for at least 22 cases of "atrocities." The victims reached almost 50 people since April 2000.

It worries Senior Supt. Dominador Flores, regional intelligence chief, that the RVG is not on the PNP's watchlist of organized crime syndicates and thus, not the subject of a manhunt.

State Prosecutor Phillip Kimpo, in a DOJ resolution, said the RVG has "high connections."

"They are suspected to have influence with some high-ranking police (officials), big-time businessmen and politicians in Nueva Ecija, of which the filing of the complaint with the office of the provincial prosecutor of Nueva Ecija will greatly endanger the lives of the victims' family and witnesses as well," Kimpo said.

During the interview held in an RVG "base" in Nueva Ecija, Peralta told the INQUIRER that he was angry at the "fabricated, baseless charges and claims."

"We are not as the PNP has pictured us to be," he said.

He said the "systematic distortion" and the attribution of many crimes to the group were "part of the campaign of drug syndicates and police officials to discredit (the RVG)."

"That way, the PNP could justify the crackdown on us," Peralta said.

Contrary to reports by intelligence officials, he said the RVG was not formed after the death of NPA Zambales commander Arcadio Peralta, the RVG founder's father.

Neither was it used by the Nueva Ecija police as an anti-drug vigilante team or a counter-insurgency force, Peralta said.

In 1988, Peralta was captured in Dagupan City, together with his mother Norma Linsangan, also an NPA commander, his wife and their 7-month-old baby. It took almost a decade before he formed the RVG.

"I did not surrender as police officials claimed. A Philippine Constabulary official (one Colonel Padilla) took custody of me. Back in the mainstream, I took construction jobs or worked as a driver. I wanted to lead a quiet life," he said.

Given the family's track record in the revolution, Peralta said farmers in the province sought him and asked for help in settling agrarian disputes.

"I referred the cases to the NPA but former comrades said they could not yet deal with these agrarian cases. A handful of us, however, decided to take up arms and defend the farmers because the landowners had private armies and their influence extended up to the courts, and because leaders (of farmers' organizations) were starting to be arrested or harassed," he said.

This was in 1996 or almost a decade after the government launched the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

No monster

The CARP, he said, was without teeth that the RVG, mostly comprised of farmers, had to help secure the estates occupied by tillers.

By 1998, the RVG had begun dealing with the complaints and pleas of Nueva Ecija residents against local drug pushers.

"Shabu was openly sold on the streets then. In just two days, 3 kilograms were sold out. We never saw such a rampant trade before," Peralta recalled.

Then the suspects, after what he called "extensive investigation," were felled one after the other.

Dealing with agrarian disputes, illegal drugs, rape and other crimes that the police did not help to stop, the RVG in time managed to build its own cache of arms from supporters, Peralta said.

At least 50 of its members are fully armed, he claimed, but declined to reveal the actual strength of his group.

The group, he noted, operates only in Nueva Ecija, not in Metro Manila, Tarlac and Aurora as the police have claimed in court.

The RVG, he added, metes out punishment based on the judgment of residents called to a "court" presided by the group.

"As much as we can, we always want to lower the death sentence. We are not trigger-happy. We respect life. It's not easy to kill," Peralta said.

Police liken RVG to Kuratong Baleleng

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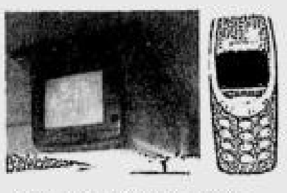

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Hope maker sees no hope for RP, blames politics

From page A1

many opportunities.

Yet disillusionment appears to have caught up with the Chinese-Filipino taipan, who advised an audience of bankers and reporters "not to be too optimistic" on the Philippines.

The taipan, whose disposition with the media had improved immensely in the last couple of months, even challenged anybody in the crowd to contact him "in heaven" by 2102, or a hundred years from now, to collect on the bet—in case, that is, his prophecies were wrong.

"For me, I don't feel optimistic until we have discipline and we believe in ourselves," Tan said.

But this is not the case with Filipinos who seem to have pursued wrong priorities, Tan added.

"In China, everybody has to learn English. In the Philippines, we reversed English. Education is popular but very low standard. No wonder the Philippine economy is bankrupt," Tan said.

Simple 'magbobote'

Tan started his tobacco business in 1966, a year after the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos was elected as president.

Born in China's Fujian province, Tan migrated to the Philippines as a boy and worked his way through college. Former First Lady Imelda Marcos once referred to him as a simple "magbobote" before he met Ferdinand, who was then a congressman. Marcos changed the life and fortune of the struggling Chinese migrant.

When Marcos became president, Lucio's tobacco business was accorded much-favored treatment. From tobacco, Tan expanded into liquor and brewery, bought Allied Bank, Philippine National Bank, Philippine Airlines, and engaged in diverse businesses in the Philippines, Hong Kong and China.

At Allied Bank's "media thanksgiving" event at the Century Park Sheraton on Monday, Tan reminded the audience that when he projected that the peso would fall to P50 so many years ago, nobody believed him. "Look how much the peso is now. So I say it could go to P120 in the next two, four, or six years," he added.

He said politics was making Filipinos poorer. That the population was growing at a faster rate than the economy did not help.

Tan also took the opportunity to take a swipe against the government's tax policies.

"The taxpayer is skin and bones and yet we keep on milking. *Talagang* no more money but yet we keep on squeezing," said the taipan whose flagship company Fortune Tobacco Corp. was accused by the Bureau of Internal Revenue during the Ramos administration of having evaded about P25 billion in taxes.

Unlike China that just keeps on developing, Tan said the Philippines was just deteriorating. "In China, every year there is change. In Manila, in 50 years there is no growth, just squatters growing," he said.

According to Tan, the Philippines will continue to decay unless Filipinos believe that they could change and they could improve things.

"If time is infinity, nothing is impossible. How soon do we put a base in Seattle or in Denver, Colorado. Why not? The Americans keep on putting base in Subic, in Clark, in Zamboanga. Why not we put our base in America?" Tan asked.

He said the Japanese believed they could defeat the Americans and so bombed Pearl Harbor.

"We have to wake up. Or we would be like sleeping lions in the next 100 years," Tan said.

Loi laments 'doña' photo: 'I'm not a snob'

By Cynthia D. Balana

SEN. LUISA "Loi" Ejercito-Estrada is saddened by the INQUIRER's choice of her picture, which she says, shows her like a rich snob. The picture accompanied the story "Loi: Don't we have a right to get rich?"

Ejercito said yesterday that her son Jinggoy was the first to call her attention to the picture and the story when he read it on the Inq.7 website.

In the story, Ejercito was protesting the Sandiganbayan order freezing the assets of her husband, former president Joseph Estrada.

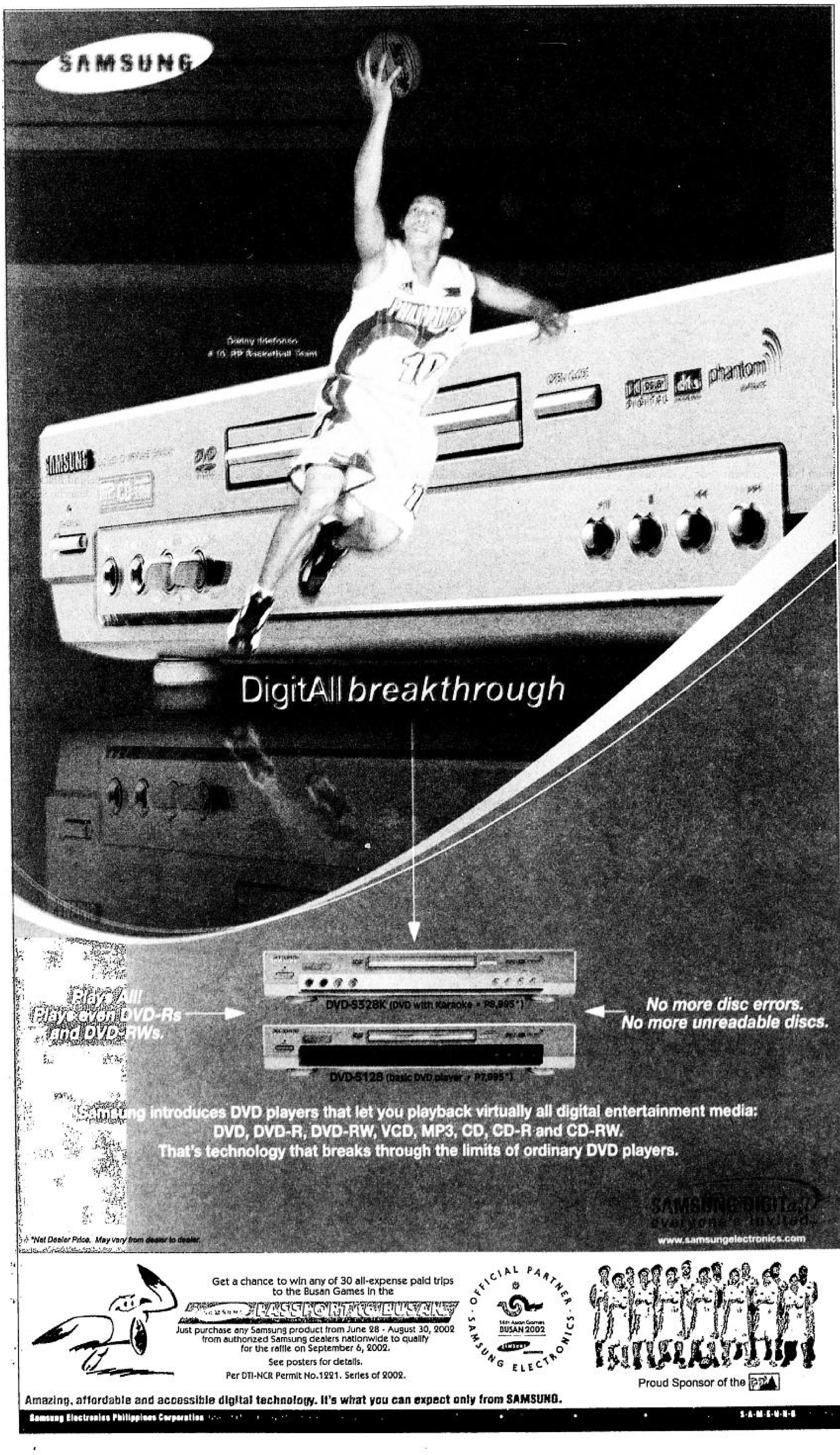
"*Sabi ni* Jinggoy, O mommy *nasa* Internet *ka. Sabi mo daw* 'don't we have right to get rich.' *May picture pa. Para kang kung sinong donya. Nakataas pa noo mo*," she told the INQUIRER.

The senator said she did not know if her son was teasing her but when she saw the newspaper, she said she was disappointed by the choice of the picture and how the headline portrayed her.

"I did not say, 'Don't we have the right to get rich. I said, '*Wala na ba kaming karapatan magkaroon ng pera? Wala na ba kaming karapatang maghanap-buhay?*" That's what I said," Ejercito said.

"I am not like that in person. You know, *hindi naman ako mayabang* (I'm not a snob). *Yung* picture *nilang ginamit, para akong kung sinong donya. Minsan lang akong tumingala, yun pa ang ginamit nila. Mali pa headline* (The picture portrayed me as someone who looked liked a doña. I rarely raise my head and that was the picture they used. The headline is even wrong)," she said.

The proper translation should be, "Don't we have the right to have money?" she said.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S-A-M-S-U-N-G

PARTYING in the good old days.

Erap . . .

From page A1

earnings in the movies."

He also spoke of his residence on Polk Street, North Greenhills, San Juan, and another in Tanay, Rizal.

Estrada said state prosecutors could not include in the Sandiganbayan freeze order assets he had acquired before he became President.

He tried to draw the line with respect to his pieces of property after his court-appointed lawyers sought clarification from the anti-graft court regarding the freeze order.

Estrada counsel Irene Jurado questioned the portion placing "other properties owned by all the accused" under court custody along with bank deposits allegedly containing Estrada's jueteng payola collections.

In Monday's hearing of Estrada's plunder case, Jurado said it would be "very prejudicial" if the freeze included assets Estrada had acquired before he became President.

Jurado managed to convince the court to suspend the implementation of that portion of the order pending the defense panel's filing of a motion for clarification.

Estrada said "that resolution must be wrong, that's why it was held in abeyance."

In the Senate, Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta said the freeze order might have been too sweeping as it might cover pieces of property and bank deposits legally acquired by Estrada and his wife Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito.

Oreta reminded the Sandiganbayan that Estrada had legally acquired assets when he was still a movie actor and a public official.

"All parties involved in this issue should be reminded that the former President still enjoys the constitutional privilege of being presumed innocent until proven otherwise," the senator said.

"The principles of fair play and equal protection should apply to all the accused in criminal cases," she added.

Oreta said some groups "appear to labor under the impression that the court proceedings against Mr. Estrada are merely being conducted to confirm popularly held notions that may later prove to be false."

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said there was a need to determine the assets that the Estrada couple had legally acquired before the filing of plunder charges.

Lacson said the prosecution should segregate the pieces of property acquired when Estrada was an actor, a mayor, a senator, vice president and President.

For his part, Sen. Vicente Sotto III said the freeze order was not fair to Ejercito because most of the assets were conjugal property.

Sotto said Ejercito was also earning from investments and hard work.

Estrada said his accusers were trumpeting the freeze order to gloss over the "conflicting testimony" so far given by former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

"This is just another diversionary tactic they are using now that Chavit is making a mess in his cross-examination," Estrada said.

He said his accusers "can take any property which they can prove I bought when I was the sitting president."

Still claiming innocence, Estrada said among his best proofs was the contents of the "second envelope" of bank documents revealed shortly after his ouster.

The documents showed he had nothing to do with the "Jose Velarde" account, one of the major items covered by the freeze order.

He maintained for the nth time that the account was rightfully claimed by Jaime Dichaves, his co-accused businessman pal.

Estrada pointed to Dichaves as the real owner of the Boracay mansion, which the former President said his mistress Laarni Enriquez merely "borrowed" for a few months. ***With a report from Cynthia D. Balana***

'Pentagon' cops cleared

From page A1

ector of Saranggani province, while Alquizar has been retained as Ranu chief because of what was described as a strong lobby in Gen. Santos City.

Dangane is a cousin of Marohombsar.

"This office is presently gathering additional evidences (sic) to warrant the filing of appropriate criminal complaints against the erring police officers in view of the seriousness of their reported involvement in KFR activities," Matillano wrote in his letter to the President, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER.

In an interview over GMA-7 last night, Matillano, now the chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, reiterated his suspicions.

Two senators have filed separate resolutions to investigate the reports of collusion between ranking police officers and elements of the Pentagon KFR.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a former PNP chief, said "all indications point that somebody higher in rank could be involved."

Administration Sen. Noli de Castro said "Marohombsar may have been killed to silence him on his claims of police connections and their participation in the kidnappings."

No rubout

Meanwhile, the man who shot and killed Marohombsar in Magallanes, Cavite, described Sunday's gunfight as a legitimate, face-to-face encounter.

T/Sgt. Willie Madayag said it was no rubout. "That's impossible. I almost died, (so) that couldn't have been a rubout," he said at the AFP Medical Center, formerly the V. Luna Hospital, in Quezon City, where he received P20,000 in cash from officials of the Chinese Filipino Business Club. Madayag was wounded on the left shoulder.

Madayag recalled that he saw five persons rush out of the kidnap gang's safe house on Sunday.

He said he saw two men in front, followed by the kidnap victim, 4-year-old Patricia Lopez Chong, and her nanny. Marohombsar brought up the rear of the group, which was hurriedly walking single file out of a house located inside a coconut plantation.

Madayag said he caught up with the tail end of the group and came face-to-face with Marohombsar, who was about 10 to 12 meters away.

"I maneuvered. He (Marohombsar) saw me. We were both startled, then he raised his gun, I dropped and fired back," Madayag said in Filipino.

At first, Madayag said, he hesitated when he saw that Marohombsar was wearing camouflaged shorts, the type used in the desert war of 1990-1991.

He identified himself, but Marohombsar fired.

A bullet hit his left shoulder as he dropped to the ground and fired back.

Asked about reports saying that Marohombsar had a slash wound on his neck, Madayag said he did not know what happened after the shooting because he was pulled out of the area right after the encounter.

He said the questions could be answered by other officials.

The official police post-mortem found that Marohombsar did indeed fire his gun, that he sustained at least two gunshot wounds, which caused his death, and that he bore minimal abrasions but had no slash across his neck.

Police officials released the results yesterday, amid persistent speculations that the Pentagon leader was killed in a rubout.

"These findings suggest that there was no rubout," Deputy Director General Edgar Galvante, deputy chief for operations, said during a briefing at the headquarters of the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer).

Citing paraffin test results, Senior Supt. Restituto Mosqueda, director of the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory, said that Marohombsar had tested positive for gunpowder burns.

For his part, Dr. Angel Cordero disclosed that Marohombsar sustained two entry gunshot wounds and one exit gunshot wound in the body.

Matillano's letter said the names of Dangane and Alquizar "cropped up during our investigation of arrested KFR suspects involved in the kidnapping of Ma. Cecilia "Chickie" Bonifacio and her secretary Fe Jayno (on) Jan. 3, 2002.

Attached to the letter was a confidential special report, which detailed the allegations against the two police colonels.

During the tactical interrogation of the suspects arrested in the Bonifacio kidnapping, suspect Kalidin Saligan, also known as Jerry Saligan, said that he was recruited by Marohombsar "and was assured of the protection of ... Dangane."

"Accordingly, Dangane would inform them in advance if there would be police operations conducted against their group," Saligan told interrogators.

Saligan said he even met Dangane at the latter's safe house in Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat, sometime in October 2001 when he was introduced by Marohombsar.

"At this meeting, he was personally assured by Dangane of his protection and was even urged to continue their kidnapping activities then surrender with Dangane's help so they could avail (themselves) of the government's livelihood programs," the report read.

Another captured suspect, Salin Mama, said he had been recruited by Saligan "with the assurance of a large amount of money and the protection of Dangane."

Mama also said he met Dangane twice when he visited the police officer's residence on Crumb Street in Digos City.

Belanger's testimony

In his testimony, Belanger recounted that Dangane was the only one around at the house where he was being held captive during the purported rescue on Dec. 23, 2001.

"After a series of gunbursts, a certain colonel, whom he later came to know to be Colonel Dangane, approached him casually and led him to 'safety'," the PNP report said.

Dangane was also implicated in the kidnapping of Dr. Josefina Montecillo, in which P1.5 million in ransom was reportedly paid.

The PNP special report found it peculiar that no kidnapper was arrested when Montecillo was "rescued" and that Dangane himself was "the one who received the victim from her kidnappers in the absence of any member of the family."

Alquizar stirred suspicions after he conducted an intelligence operation on the Bonifacio kidnapping without proper coordination with PNP office in Central Mindanao.

"Alquizar insisted on conducting his independent actions and even penetrated close to the target area which could have jeopardized the entire operation and placed the safety of the victim in jeopardy," the PNP report said.

Also named in the report as among those who may have facilitated the payment of ransom were lawyer Sobair Marohomsalic of the Office for Muslim Affairs in Central Mindanao and a certain Rolan Afed, "who was introduced as a National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (agent)."

Marohomsalic, also a relative of Dangane and Marohombsar, "acted as negotiator for the release of Sonny Lim and Pierre Belanger."

During the final briefing held at the Waterfront Hotel before the "rescue" of Belanger, Afed was observed as "calling the shots and talking over the cell phone with (someone) who appeared to be a Canadian official."

The report said Afed was "already discussing the airlift of the kidnapped victim to Manila early the following day."

The report's assessment found that "the KFR activities in the area ... were committed with the knowledge and/or consent of the PNP's local law enforcement officers; ironically, the same ones who were tasked to combat KFR activities." ***With reports from the PDI Mindanao Bureau; TJ Burgonio and Jerome Aning***

RP protests ill treatment . . .

From page A1

from the Philippines.

Sen. Manny Villar earlier in the day urged the DFA to lodge the diplomatic protest.

"While we respect the right of the Malaysian government to enforce their laws, the rights of deportees must also be respected," said Villar, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations.

"Television footage captured the sub-human conditions endured by our countrymen, including women and children. When nine children die during transport, there is definitely something wrong," he said at a press conference.

Ople said he thought of filing the diplomatic protest after he watched on TV Filipinos complaining of maltreatment from Malaysian police and immigration authorities.

Doctors in Tawi-tawi reported that many of the deportees were suffering from malnutrition, dehydration and bronchial diseases.

Ople said a Filipino consular team confirmed the "inhuman treatment" of Filipino illegals in Malaysian detention cells in Sabah.

"Filing a diplomatic protest) is my intention due to the very harsh treatment being given to the Filipino detainees," Ople told reporters at the DFA before his meeting with Taufik. They were still locked in discussion until early evening.

Taufik earlier blamed the Filipinos for the treatment that they received.

"Had they (availed themselves) of the amnesty (offered them by the Malaysian government), they would not have ended up rushing out (of Malaysia)," Taufik said in an interview with dzMM yesterday morning.

More than 300,000 illegal workers, mainly from Indonesia, went home under a four-month amnesty ahead of the introduction on Aug. 1 of harsh new punishments for illegal immigrants, including a mandatory six-month imprisonment and up to six strokes of the cane.

Malaysia agreed to extend the deadline to Aug. 24 following an appeal from the Philippines.

Since February, some 64,000 Filipinos have left Sabah and about 4,000 others are still awaiting deportation. It is estimated that up to half-a-million Filipinos live in Sabah, some of them refugees of a Moro separatist war in Mindanao in the 1970s.

Deportees have been arriving in batches on board Navy ships in Mindanao. The latest, consisting of 1,597 Filipinos, arrived on Monday in Bongao, Tawi-tawi.

Ople said his meeting with Taufik was aimed at exchanging ideas on how to conduct a speedy and orderly deportation of Filipinos. "This (meeting) is one way of preserving the (bilateral) relations between the two countries," Ople said.

Victoriano Lecaros, DFA spokesperson, said that after the exchange of pleasantries, Ople immediately conveyed to Taufik Manila's concern for the "inhuman condition" of Filipinos detainees.

Lecaros said Taufik assured Ople that deported Filipinos could return anytime after they fixed their papers.

"They can come back anytime. They are most welcome to come back provided their documentation is complete," Lecaros quoted Taufik as saying.

Lecaros said a pending labor agreement between Kuala Lumpur and Manila could be strained should the misunderstanding develop between the two countries.

"They should not burn the bridge. Malaysia needs workers while the Filipinos need jobs," he said.

Ethnic cleansing

Sen. Ralph Recto said the deportation was not a simple enforcement of Malaysian immigration laws but an "ethnic cleansing" by a government, which has grown fearful of the growing immigrant population.

Recto said economics had nothing to do with the expulsion of Filipino illegals from Sabah.

"Filipinos are not living off on welfare in Sabah. They are not boat people who depend on government dole-outs. They have jobs so they are productive members of society," he said.

Recto insisted that Malaysia's version of a "pogrom" in Sabah was triggered by the rise in the number of guest workers in Malaysia's third largest state. One-fifth of Sabah's 2.5 million inhabitants come from the Philippines and Indonesia.

Some parts of Sabah are dominated by Filipinos, making Malaysia jittery, according to Rector.

Recto said the Malaysians were fearful that Filipinos were "sleepers," who would one day represent a potent force in a land still technically being claimed by the Philippines.

"With their liberal outlook and exposure to electoral democracy, Filipinos can be a democratizing force in Sabah," he said.

Filipinos, registering themselves as Malaysians, helped elect Yong Teck Lee as Sabah chief minister in 1999, according to Recto.

But on June 8, 2001, the high court in Kota Kinabalu ordered Yong to vacate his post, ruling that he won it with the help of "phantom voters."

Yong is a member of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad's ruling Barisan Nasional, which won control of the state assembly in polls.

The opposition Sabah United Party (PBS) at the time accused the coalition of using "dirt tactics" to win. It complained to police that it had proof 30,000 immigrants, mostly from the Philippines, were issued Malaysian identity cards to allow them to vote.

Malnutrition

Another Filipino child was reported to have died shortly after reaching Bongao, Tawi-tawi, due to malnutrition, dehydration and amoebiasis.

Lecaros identified the child as one-year-old Siiti Aisa Ibni.

Lecaros said Ibni died shortly after reaching a hospital in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi. Doctors said the child died of malnutrition, and dehydration due to amoebiasis.

Two other children died on Aug. 24. One died in a detention cell and the other died while being transported back to the Philippines.

"The Malaysian government should be held liable for the deaths of these children who died in the holding areas with inhuman conditions," said Apolinario Lozada, chair of the foreign relations panel in the House of Representatives.

He said the Philippine government "should not let this issue pass" and formally notify Kuala Lumpur that "we are not happy with the way they treated our Filipino brothers." ***With a report from AFP***

US loves RP, says Ricciardone

From page A1

Ricciardone later said American and other foreign investors were shunning the Philippines because of widespread corruption, particularly in the judiciary.

After a lengthy meeting yesterday with Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople, however, Ricciardone said Americans in fact loved the Philippines and wanted to travel around its islands.

"We would look into our advisory to address whatever inaccuracy is there," Ricciardone told reporters.

During the impromptu press briefing, Ople said the US travel advisory updated on July 1 was not taken up during his meeting with Ricciardone.

"We did not discuss (the advisory) but the ambassador knows my position on the matter. Many Americans find this a beautiful country," Ople said.

"I agree fully well. Americans love the Philippines and would want to travel around the islands," Ricciardone told reporters.

The ambassador added alleged inaccuracies in the advisory would be appropriately changed if warranted.

The travel advisory is up for revision still on Feb. 19, 2003.

"A number of security-related incidents highlight the risks of travel in the Philippines. Kidnappings of foreigners, bombings, and other violent incidents call for Americans to exercise caution throughout the country," the first part of the controversial advisory said.

"Moreover, as a result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, US citizens and interests may be at increased risk of terrorist actions from extremist groups, as stated in the Worldwide Caution updated by the Department of State on July 1, 2002," it added.

The advisory then went on to enumerate the instances of terrorist attacks on Americans by communist guerrillas of the New People's Army, Moro bandits of the Abu Sayyaf and terrorists of the shadowy Indigenous People's Federal Army.

The Department of Foreign Affairs recently called the attention of Australian Ambassador Ruth Pearce regarding the embassy's latest travel advisory.

The advisory warned Australians against frequenting Metro Manila, more notably Makati City, due to the high crime rate.

In her meeting with Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja, Pearce reportedly agreed to a possible rephrasing of the advisory.

She, however, reportedly pointed out that the advisories of the United States, Britain and Canada were relatively "harsher."

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2 videos do not show Sabaya killed

From page A1

Macapagal-Arroyo, her close advisers and top ranking military officers in Malacañang on June 23. The President described it as a "movie-like action-packed video."

But was the President shown the second videotape of the same incident?

What is not generally known is that there was another video of the encounter shot at close range from a rubber boat which had immediately rushed to the scene after the exact location of the Abu Sayyaf elements was confirmed by intelligence operatives.

The question is: Who took the footage from the ground?

The INQUIRER also heard a separate audiotape of Sabaya's satellite phone conversations before the encounter.

"We're here. Fetch us," the crisp voice on the audiotape could be heard speaking in Tausug.

The man asked if the "jeep" was in proper condition.

"Put water in it."

"Also bring hammocks."

It was 2 p.m. of June 20 and the military was eavesdropping on what it said was a satellite phone conversation between Aldam Tilao, the former criminology student who had earned worldwide notoriety as Abu Sabaya, and his contact, Gardo Ibrahim. According to the military, Ibrahim led the soldiers to Sabaya.

A military officer, who speaks Tausug, annotated the audiotape. He claimed he was familiar with Sabaya's voice. The officer explained that "jeep" was a code for a boat and "putting water" meant that the boat should be filled with fuel.

He said Sabaya was requesting for hammocks because his group had lost its hammocks and other equipment in the firefight with Army Scout Rangers in Sirawai town on June 7.

American hostage Gracia Burnham was recovered after that engagement but her husband, Martin, and Filipino nurse Edibora Yap died in the exchange of fire.

At 8 p.m., the man the military said was Sabaya placed his last phone call. He told his contact to dispatch the boat at 10 p.m.

The trap

A trap was laid.

Sabaya did not know that the two men who were to operate the boat that would bring him from Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte, to Basilan had already been co-opted by the military. One of them was later identified as Ibrahim who, according to the military, started out as a guide and later became one of Sabaya's close-in security.

Ibrahim was presented to President Macapagal in Malacañang on June 25 and was given a P5-million reward.

The military said Ibrahim and his associate left Zamboanga City before midnight of June 20 on board a twin-engine boat to fetch Sabaya. They were each given a necklace with a pendant that emitted light to serve as a signal for government troops not to shoot them should a firefight erupt.

Leaving the same port with Ibrahim and his associate were three boatloads of Marine commandos and members of the Navy's Special Warfare Group led by Marine Col. Ariel Querubin.

At about 3 a.m. on June 21, the four boats arrived in Parang-Parang, Mantibog Point in Sibuco. The Navy boats lay in wait about a kilometer from the shore while Ibrahim and his associate guided their own vessel to shore.

Gliding across the dark sky, unnoticeable to the human eye, was a US military spy plane, its powerful sensors picking up images below and recording everything on video.

The video footage was in a grainy film in tones of gray and charcoal.

Seven silhouettes

It showed the silhouettes of seven human figures as they emerged on a dark, isolated beach. Their faces were indistinguishable, but their outlines could clearly be seen as they walked briskly toward the shoreline.

A military officer identified the seven as Sabaya and his men. They made their way toward the boat where Ibrahim and his associate were waiting.

According to accounts later from people on the ground (including Ibrahim), Sabaya was second to the last to board the boat. He positioned himself at the front of the boat where he dozed off.

The spy plane video showed the boat speeding out to sea, leaving a grayish white spray in its wake.

Meanwhile, the Marine and Navy commandos, using night-vision goggles, immediately tracked Sabaya's boat.

Several minutes had elapsed when a much bigger and faster boat (the Navy's) rapidly emerged from the left side of Sabaya's boat. It switched on its powerful searchlights and two figures could be seen jumping from the smaller boat, making a splash in the water. They were Ibrahim and his associate who were previously told to jump overboard as soon the Navy turned on its searchlights.)

A split second later, the larger vessel rammed the smaller boat, causing it to briefly go under water, throwing its remaining occupants overboard.

The military commandos, armed with assault rifles fitted with Krypton flashlights, raked with automatic fire those who were overboard. The firefight was dramatically captured on the spy plane video—the calm waters suddenly looked like a huge cauldron of boiling water as bullets hit the sea.

Three of the seven occupants of the pumpboat dropped and disappeared into the water. They appeared to be hit, according to a military officer who saw the aerial footage.

"But if you ask me if the bullet wounds were fatal, that cannot be readily concluded based on the video," the officer said.

Case closed!

But according to official accounts, three men were repeatedly hit, including the one in black—Sabaya. Not a single body was found in the shark-infested deep waters. The remaining four, who were reportedly Sabaya's close-in security, were fished out of the water. One of them later died of a heart attack while under detention.

The assault boat was led by Marine Capt. Gieram Aragones and piloted by Lt. Junior Grade Gilbert Villareal.

The sea encounter capped Case Plan Black Archer, the operation meant to neutralize Sabaya and which started as early as November 2001.

The brains behind Black Archer was Marine Col. Juancho Sabban, a member of the Philippine Military Academy's Class of 1978.

"Case closed," Sabban said in a previous interview.

The absence of Sabaya's body and that of the two other bandits has sparked speculations that they could have survived the attack.

Sali and Nacorda

In an exclusive interview with the INQUIRER, first aired over Net-25, Hamsiradji Sali alias commander Jose Ramirez said that "Sabaya is still alive."

When asked if he had seen Sabaya or if he had communicated with him by phone, Sali, who had a falling out with Sabaya over ransom payments for the Dos Palmas hostages, replied, "Some of my men know where he is."

According to Sali, Sabaya is just resting and recovering from the encounter and is not yet ready to talk. Pressed where Sabaya is hiding, Sali said, "he's out of the country."

Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, parish priest of Lamitan, also claimed last week that Sabaya was alive. He was challenged by the Armed Forces to produce Sabaya "alive and kicking."

Sharing intelligence

"We don't want our adversaries to know our capabilities," Ricciardone answered Malacañang reporters yesterday when asked about the availability of the US tape.

Ricciardone was in the Palace for a briefing on the three-year, $3-million humanitarian aid by the US government and American non-governmental organizations for the people of Sulu.

Describing the video tape as an "intelligence report basically," Ricciardone said: "As you know, we never release intelligence reports."

"We always protect our sources (of information)," Ricciardone said amid clamor from legislators to declassify the tape because of claims that Sabaya is still alive.

On Saturday, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that the government may again borrow the tape from the United States and show it to the public to disprove Nacorda's claim.

Bunye, however, noted that the tape was property of the US government.

"Of course with friendly governments where we have extensive intelligence collaboration, we share intelligence," Ricciardone said.

"There are certain things we are not going to expose to the media," Ricciardone said. "We are not releasing this."

$300 EACH INCLUDING RESERVES

Buhain: Cagers will receive stipend

By June Navarro

THE ALLOWANCES of the Asian Games-bound RP basketball team will go straight to the players' pockets, Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain bared yesterday.

Buhain said an athlete who qualified in the 218-strong RP contingent is entitled to the $300 stipend for the duration of the Busan, South Korea meet which will run from Sept. 28-Oct. 14.

The PSC will shell out a total of $6,300 for the allowances of the basketball team.

"Nobody else could encash the cheques or receive the allowances but the athletes themselves," said Buhain, who confirmed the presence of a disbursing officer stationed at the Athletes' Village during the Games.

The disbursing officer, Buhain added, will be responsible for ensuring that each athlete receives the PSC's dole out.

The PSC's roster of athletes lists only 12 cagers and 6 officials but Buhain confirmed the three reserves—Boyet Fernandez, Chris Jackson and Mick Pennisi—would also get allowances.

Buhain said Fernandez, Jackson and Pennisi won't be billeted at the Athletes' Village together with 12 players picked by headcoach Jong Uichico.

Olsen Racela, Kenneth Duremdes, Andy Seigle, Danny Seigle, Dondon Hontiveros, Noy Castillo, Jeffrey Cariaso, Rudy Hatfield, Asi Taulava, Eric Menk, Danny Ildefonso and Dennis Espino form the Magic 12 of the RP basketball squad.

Entered as officials in the PSC's master list are Uichico, assistant coaches Allan Caidic and Eric Altamirano, game officials Benjamin Alberto and Henry Mortel and PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino as team manager.

Assistant coaches Binky Favis and Boysie Zamar will join 20 other personnel and officials including the likes of RFM's Joey Concepcion and Elmer Yanga who are not in the PSC payroll.

Army XI blanks UP

DEFENDING champion Philippine Army crushed University of the Philippines, 5-0, Sunday to remain unbeaten in three First Division outings in the 2nd Army-Utilco International Invitational Football Cup tournament at the Ascom field in Fort Bonifacio.

Nestorio Margase, Richmond Braga, Nolan Madali, Rodoy Garciano and Billy Estrella produced Army's markers in the 37th, 44th, 68th, 70th and 89th minutes, respectively.

Kaya Football Club levelled its record at 1-win, 1-loss by nosing out University of Santo Tomas, 2-1, in another First Division match.

In other games featuring Second Division Teams, De La Salle University ripped Mit-Mapua, 5-1; University of the East toppled Korean Football Association, 6-2; Sunday FC blanked TPI Eagles, 6-0, and El Magistrado spilled Pasargard, 3-0.

8 boxers to Asiad

FLYWEIGHT Violito Payla, bantam Ferdie Gamo and middleweight Maraon Goles head the eight-man boxing team named to the Busan Asian Games yesterday by Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez during the PSA Forum. Payla won in Cuba, Gamo in Bosnia and Goles in North Korea in the course of the boxers' foreign sorties this year. Joining them are light fly Harry Tanamor, featherweight Roel Laguna, light welter Romeo Brin, light middleweight Christopher Camat and lightweight Anthony Igusquiza. *Roy Luarca*

DAVENPORT of the United States reaches out to make a return against Eva Dyrberg of Denmark in their first round match yesterday in the US Open in New York City. Davenport won, 6-2, 6-1. AP

Comebacks mark US Open Day 1

By Howard Fendrich

NEW YORK—The opening day of the U.S. Open was a celebration of comebacks: Corina Morariu's, Lindsay Davenport's, New York's.

Morariu returned to Grand Slam action less than 1 1/2 years after starting treatment for leukemia and did what she could to keep top-seeded Serena Williams off-balance in their first-round match Monday before falling 6-2, 6-3.

"I didn't think that I'd ever be back here," a teary Morariu said. "There are days when you feel so bad, and things get so difficult, that you don't think you'll be able to do the things you used to."

Davenport, the player many consider the most capable of challenging the Williams sisters' dominance, wasn't given much of a test in her first major tournament match since right knee surgery in January. She beat Eva Dyrberg of Denmark of Denmark 6-2, 6-1.

The night match between Morariu and 1999 champion Williams was preceded by a ceremony of tribute to the heroes and victims of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 - two days after last year's U.S. Open ended.

"This year's Open is special: It's another indication that our city is well on its way to recovering from the tragedy of Sept. 11," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said. *AP*

UM routs Angel U

GAMES THURSDAY
(Coliseum ng Bayan)
10 a.m.—St. Clare vs PLP (S)
11:30 a.m.—St. Clare vs Holy Angel (J)
1 p.m.—Holy Angel vs AMA (S)
2:30 p.m.—UM vs AUF (J)

ANGELES CITY-Defending champion University of Manila hardly worked up a sweat in beating host Holy Angel University, 104-52, in an out-of-town game in the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) basketball tournament at the HAU gym here Monday.

Finding little opposition, the Hawks buried the Flyers with an avalanche of baskets right in the opening minutes to keep the solo with their third straight win in this eight-team, single-round tournament.

Louie Aquino and Jessie Macasa led a balanced scoring attack by the Hawks, who also won over University of Makati, 86-63, on Aug. 20 and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay, 52-51, on Aug. 23.

Aquino and Macasa topscored with 17 points apiece, Bo Cummings and Herwin Tabuzo added 13 points each and Eddie Legaspi contributed 12 for UM, which is being handled by coach Loreto Tolentino and manager lawyer Ernesto de los Santos.

Homer Dante and Ryan Tongio carried the fight for Holy Angel with 12 and 10 points, respectively.

Ansaldo powers Ateneo to adidas Streetball victory

GUARD Dexter Ansaldo displayed nerves of steel in overtime, hitting the winning throw as Ateneo de Davao beat title-favorite Xavier of NCR, 20-19, to claim the national championship in the Juniors division of the adidas Streetball Challenge 2002 held recently at SM City-Cebu.

The unheralded Ansaldo outdueled Eric Dee by sinking his free throw in the second shootout to break the 19-all tie and win the match for Ateneo.

Regulation play ended at 16-all.

Ateneo de Davao and Xavier fought a tight game, with neither team allowing the other to lead by more than 3 points.

Starring for Ateneo were team captain Aaron Medina and Paulo Lim. Xavier's other players were guard Gabriel Sia and bespectacled center Woodward Co.

Xavier actually had the lead with only 10.4 seconds left in regulation as Sia reported for a driving lay-up.

But Ateneo's Paulo Lim managed to break free in the ensuring play and scored with 4.3 seconds remaining to tie the game at 16. Xavier called timeout but failed to score on their possession.

Medina, topscoring with 9 points, was named MVP.

Presenting the trophies, medals and prizes during the awarding ceremonies were top officials of adidas Philippines—John Alonte, Angelica Suiza, Goody Custodio and Odette Velarde.

Also present was Purefoods star and adidas endorser Rey Evangelista.

The adidas Streetball Challenge 2002 is also presented by Growee and WGA Zip in cooperation with Gatorade, Absolute pure distilled drinking water, Zed, Taylormade Golf, Salomon, Magic 89.9 dwTM and 99.5 RT.

The gap is closing

TEN years ago, the original Dream Team of NBA superstars led by Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, Larry Bird and Charles Barkley, played in an international competition for the first time and were the toast of the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. They created a Beatles-like hysteria anywhere they went, beat their opponents by a 43-point average to win the gold, and posed for pictures and signed autographs for their awe-struck opponents after every game.

At the Sydney Olympics two years ago, Team USA led by the likes of Vince Carter, Kevin Garnett and Alonzo Mourning, was nearly upset by Lithuania in the semifinals (85-83) and beat lowly-regarded France by only 10 points in the championship game. Clearly, Team USA's aura of invincibility has receded.

The 2002 World Basketball Championships (the "Worlds") in Indianapolis on Aug. 30-Sept. 9 will provide Team USA with its stiffest competition yet. Charles Barkley, a member of the 1992 and 1996 gold medal US Olympic teams and now an NBA TV analyst, said that the US Team should not be surprised to lose in the near future.

"They are going to beat us sometime soon. It's just a matter of time," said Barkley in NBA.com.

"A big advantage that we used to have was depth," Barkley said. "In 1992, (opponents) could put 5 players (on court), but we could put 10. In 1996, they could put 7 out there and you could see the gap close. I assume now, in the World Championship, they can put 8 out there. By the time the next Olympics come around, they will be able to put 10 out there."

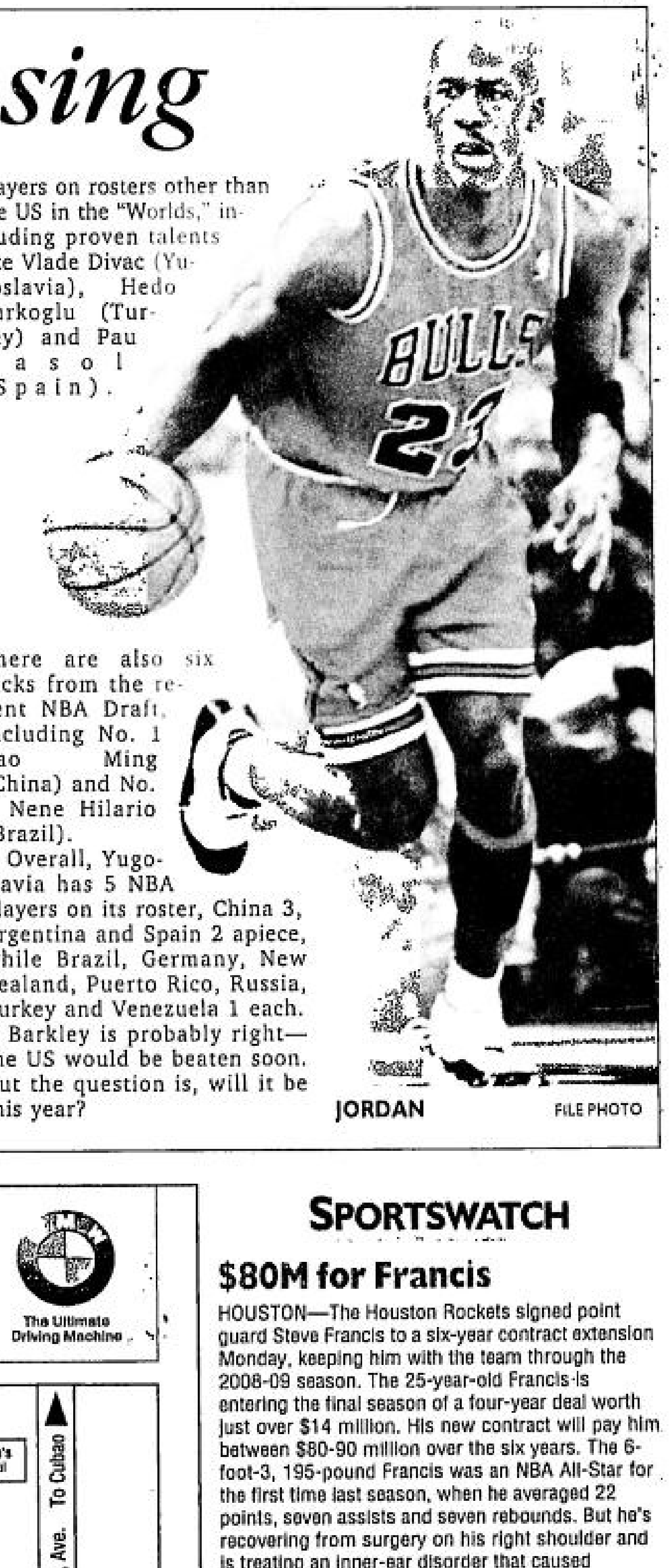
Barkley believed the countries posing the largest threat for the Americans are Yugoslavia, Russia and Germany, which is bracketed with the US in Pool C and will face the Americans on Aug. 31. (Solar Entertainment will telecast all the games of Team USA at 7-9 p.m. on RPN-9 on a "same-day" basis aside from the daily coverage on Solar Channel 17 on Skycable/Homecable). Not coincidentally, NBA stars lead each of these teams: Yugoslavia has Peja Stojavic (Sacramento), Germany Dirk Nowotzki (Dallas) and Russia Andrei Kirilenko (Utah).

There are a record 19 NBA players on rosters other than the US in the "Worlds," including proven talents like Vlade Divac (Yugoslavia), Hedo Turkoglu (Turkey) and Pau Gasol (Spain).

There are also six picks from the recent NBA Draft, including No. 1 Yao Ming (China) and No. 7 Nene Hilario (Brazil).

Overall, Yugoslavia has 5 NBA players on its roster, China 3, Argentina and Spain 2 apiece, while Brazil, Germany, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, Russia, Turkey and Venezuela 1 each.

Barkley is probably right—the US would be beaten soon. But the question is, will it be this year?



JORDAN FILE PHOTO

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: US Open 2002—Men's/Women's First Round at 7 a.m. (r – 7 p.m.), Second Round at 10:30 p.m. on Star Sports
GOLF: LPGA Bank of Montreal Canadian Women's Open, First Round at 8 a.m. on ESPN
SOCCER: Western Union World Football at 12 noon (r) on ESPN
Football Focus at 12:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

BLAST FROM THE PAST

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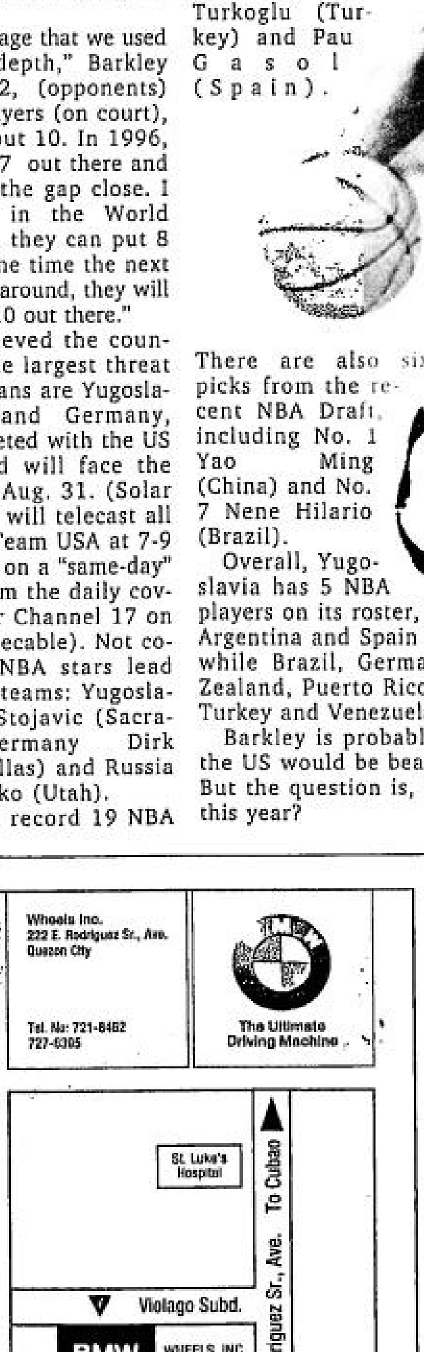


SPORTSWATCH

$80M for Francis

HOUSTON—The Houston Rockets signed point guard Steve Francis to a six-year contract extension Monday, keeping him with the team through the 2008-09 season. The 25-year-old Francis is entering the final season of a four-year deal worth just over $14 million. His new contract will pay him between $80-90 million over the six years. The 6-foot-3, 195-pound Francis was an NBA All-Star for the first time last season, when he averaged 22 points, seven assists and seven rebounds. But he's recovering from surgery on his right shoulder and is treating an inner-ear disorder that caused debilitating headaches last season.

Toku-Gerry all set

TOKYO —Japan's Masamori Tokuyama defended his WBC super flyweight title Monday for the fifth time, winning by technical knockout against Mexico's Eric Lopez. Tokuyama's punishing left-handed punches to Lopez's face caused the Mexican boxer's right eye to swell, and American judge Frank Cappuccino stopped the bout before the start of the seventh round. Tokuyama's next defense will be against Filipino Gerry Peñalosa on Nov. 8 in Osaka City. AP

Peace chess champ assured of ₱10,000

A GUARANTEED minimum cash prize of P10,000 and trophies will be at stake when the third leg of the 2002 Philippine Executive Chess Express or Peace 2002 gets underway on Aug. 31 at the Land Bank Plaza in Malate, Manila.

The monthly event, which is open to business executives and professionals, is being organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia (Acca) with the support of Citibank, Belgosa Media Systems Inc. and Land Bank. Contact the Acca at tel. 892-8759 for more information about Peace 2002.

Ryan Ruiz of Globe Telecom, champion in last year's Serenity section, is on top of the grand prix standings in the elite Success section with 29 points, Lawyer Quirino Sagario is on second spot with 27 points.

First leg champion Joseph Galindo and second leg winner Jenny Mayor are tied for third-fourth places with 20 points each. Manny Yu and Edward Oliver Ang share fifth-sixth places with 19 points apiece. Edwin Lorenzo and Douglas Peña are at 7th-8th spots with identical 18 points. Defending champion Dennis San Juan and Noel Garcia occupy 9th-10th with 17 points each.

In the Prosperity section, Reenan Hornilla leads with 27 points. Cyrus Atienza and Amando Labarda Jr. share second-third places with 26 points each. Loreño Tabilog is alone at fourth with 23 points and Rey Paul Hechanova is fifth with 22 points.

NBN 4 to Asiad; Dacanay, Ong in

By Dennis U. Eroa and Roy Luarca

THE EXPLOITS of Filipino athletes in the Busan (South Korea) Asian Games will be covered by the National Broadcasting Network's Channel 4, general manager Joey Isabelo announced yesterday.

This came about after Isabelo clinched a deal yesterday with Dentsu and Young, the Japanese firm that owns the marketing rights to the Asiad set Sept. 28 to Oct. 14 in South Korea's second largest city after Seoul.

The deal involved full TV coverage rights of the Games on an exclusive basis.

Isabelo said the high cost of broadcast rights has forced Singapore and Brunei not to cover the Games.

Meanwhile, swimmers Luica Dacanay and Heidi Ong got the go signal to join the Busan Asian Games yesterday, raising the total number of Filipino athletes to 218.

The joint Philippine Sports Commission and Philippine Olympic Committee Task Force Asian Games took the best times submitted by Dacanay (butterfly) and Ong (freestyle) then combined these with that of Lizza Danila (backstroke) and Jenny Guerrero (breaststroke) for a total of 4:23.30, which is equivalent to the 4 x 100 medley relay silver medal in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games.

US-trained Miguel Mendoza and Carlo Piccio, Japan-based Miguel Molina and Timmy Chua make up the men's team. Accompanying them are Philippine Amateur secretary general Ral Rosario, head coach Carlos Brosas and Japanese coach Ryuzo Ishikawa.

In a related development, Bryan Dimacali replaced Arnel Querimit in the cycling squad. Querimit is serving a 6-month suspension after failing to submit in a doping test during the Tour of Langkawi early this year.

Jody keeps lead

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Caltex Havoline-Autoplus-Red Horse lead driver Jody Coseteng retained the lead in both the Philippine National Touring Car championship and the SVI Super Saloon Series despite finishing second in Rounds 9 and 10 of the SVI Grand Prix last weekend at the Subic International Raceway here.

Coseteng, despite losing both races to Kookie Ramirez, has 104 points in the Philippine Touring Car Series to stay on course for a third straight crown and Driver of the Year award.

"A second place finish is good enough. The other competitors are stepping up and really came prepared for the race. But what matters to us is, we're still on course for the crown," said Coseteng.

Letran fights for life today

By June Navarro

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 p.m.—Letran vs UPHR (jrs/srs)
3:30 p.m.—PCU vs SSC (srs/jrs)

LETRAN College tries to keep its Final 4 bid alive when it collides with the languishing University of Perpetual Help-Rizal Altas today in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Knights (5-6) need to sweep their last three assignments and pray for the JRU Heavy Bombers' downfall to figure in a playoff for the last Final 4 spot.

While their 2 p.m. showdown against the Altas is expected to be a stroll in the park, the Knights will be up for a tough challenge against College of St. Benilde and Mapua in their last two outings.

Ronjay Enrile, rookies Boyet Bautista, Jonathan Aldave and the rest of the Knights are aware of this and will use the clash against the Altas as tune-up for their remaining matches.

Coach Louie Alas and his wards are still in the thick of the playoff race after thrashing San Beda College, 67-54, last week.

The Heavy Bombers (7-4) will tackle College of St. Benilde and the Altas before closing their elimination stint against defending champion San Sebastian College.

Philippine Christian University and San Sebastian College meet in the other varsity game, hoping to maintain their momentum when the semifinals arrive.

The Dolphins (8-4) barged into the Final Four for the first time since joining the league in 1996 after booting out Mapua, 88-84, while the Stags edged the Red Lions, 87-85, to close in on a twice-to-beat edge.

Stormy weather

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

EVER since the epic series between Batang Red Bull and San Miguel Beer for the PBA Commissioner's Cup set record attendance last year, the Philippine Basketball Association has been beset by one problem after another, among them: mounting complaints against poor officiating, dwindling gate receipts and the presence of imports whose behavior sucks.

With today's Game 3 in jeopardy of being threatened again by another display of bad temper by those visiting players, PBA acting commissioner Sonny Barrios and technical committee chief Ricky Palou should flex their muscle by directing these hotheaded imports to behave properly at all times while earning big money here and enjoying the hospitality of the Filipino people. League officials should also order the referees to render quality officiating, asking these whistle-totters to be always spotlessly clean and honest in fairness to the public and the team owners and dispel ugly talks that they are on the take and pro San Miguel. Recall that Talk N Text coach Bill Bayno once said, "There's a reason why they win a lot of championships. Every time we play San Miguel they get every call. If the referees are fair we could beat them. But we did not get a fair shake. The referees decided those games."

And speaking of San Miguel, many fans are wondering how come SMB imports are always involved in recent cases of court "hooliganism?" Is this a mere coincidence? For example, during the Governors' Cup game between Sta. Lucia and San Miguel last April, Beermen Lamont Strothers and Mario Bennet showed their utter lack of sportsmanship by losing their cool. In full view of the public and those watching the game on television, Strothers tried to attack Realtor Gerald Francisco, chased and cursed referee Franco Ilagan, threw the ball to the upper box section of the Big Dome and took off his jersey. Bennet joined his infuriated teammate by likewise taking off his shirt. Both hotheads were ejected from the court.

Then last July at the Cuneta Astrodome during the Batang Red Bull-San Miguel encounter in the ongoing Commissioner's Cup, SMB import Art Long figured in another ugly incident by punching Red Bull import Tony Lang and threatening to throw a chair at the crowd. The ill-tempered Long had been sent home and replaced by Terquin Mott, a *balik*-import. However, Mott is also fast becoming more of a problem than a solution. Just to illustrate. Last Sunday, Mott, who had slammed the ball on Lang's head in the second quarter, assaulted Lang on their way to the dugout of the Big Dome just shortly after the halftime break of Game 2. Team manager Tony Chua said Lang is planning to file a court case to make Mott answer for his actions. "Lang came here to play and not to fight. He is not a coward but he really felt aggrieved." Defending champion Red Bull and Talk N Text are leading the best-of-five Commissioner's Cup semifinals over San Miguel and Alaska Milk, respectively, with a 2-0 slate. They will gun for the clincher today.

Media nips Triple V, wins Eduque Cup

MEDIA banked on its high handicappers to eke out an exciting two-stroke victory over Triple V on Monday to capture the first Tito Eduque Memorial Cup at the Aguinaldo Golf Club course.

The close victory broke a 2-2 tie between the clubs and gave the Media golfers permanent possession of the Triple V Cup, now renamed the Tito Eduque Memorial Cup in honor of the late basketball great and chairman of the Triple V Group of restaurants who died last November.

The 18-hole tournament was the 18th edition of the Triple V-Media Golf Classic and marked the celebration of both the 75th birthday of Eduque and the 25th anniversary of Triple V.

The unlikely spearhead of the Media charge were three high handicappers with radio man Resty de Quiroz shooting a net 8-under par 60 on a bright and sunny day, an unusual weather for the usually rain-drenched dual meet between the two clubs.

Corrie Narisma surprised herself with the game of her life for a net 63 and Badong Hilario backed this up with a net 64 as the three rescued Media when its big guns suddenly fell silent.

Rene Ligon likewise surprised himself and his teammates with a net 60 to lead Triple V scoring and Jessie Martinez backed him up with a 62, but the rest of the team could do no better than the 66s of Raul Marcelo, Bert Puzon, Freddie Villanueva, Vincent Villavicencio, Eric Comsti; the 67 of Budji Coscolluela and the 68 of Mingging Ortiz.

Pililia coliseum opens Sept. 1

AFTER a long overdue maintenance work and much-needed repairs of damages caused by two flash floods, the Pililia Coliseum will reopen on Sept. 1.

"The new coliseum will reestablish Pililia's stature as Rizal's cocking center," said Mayor Nick Patenia.

Backed up by lady breeder Princess Naldo & Friends, the Pililla Coliseum will give out cash bonuses of P500 per win to all hackfight winners from the first fight up to the last every Saturday and Sunday.

"As a welcome gesture, the gates will be opened to the public for free," said Rolando Luzong, general manager.

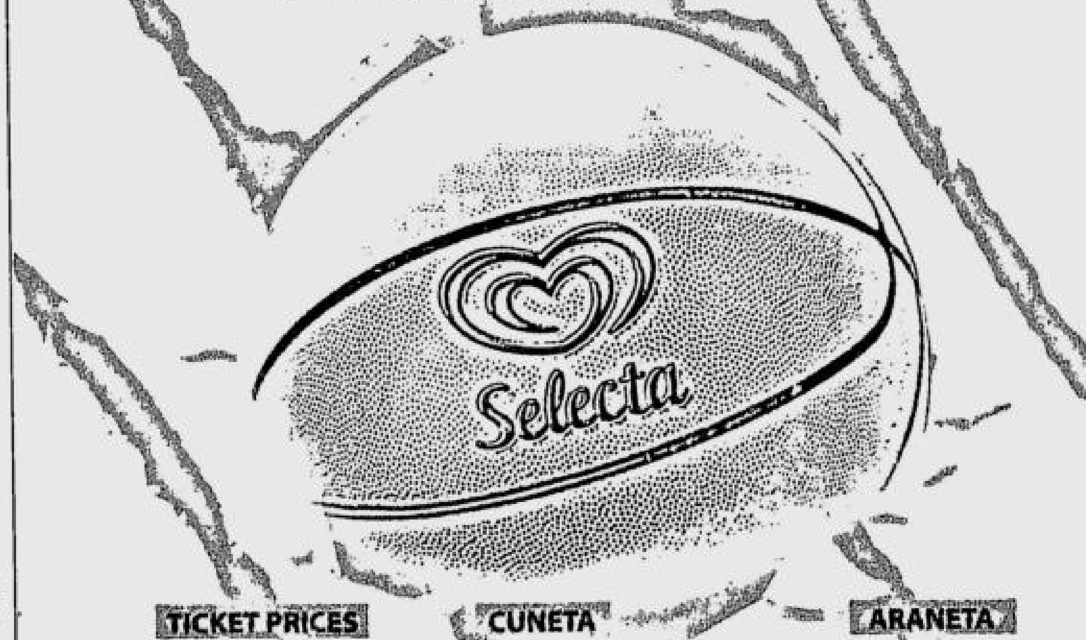
Luzong announced that a special 3-stag derby, dubbed as the Thunderbird "Stagan sa Pililla," will be held on Oct. 2, offering a cash prize of P200,000 for an entry fee of P4,400.

Screening will be held at the cockpit during the derby day from 6 to 11 a.m.

The first 15 entries will each receive a brand new electric fan.

Also slated is the "Karambola sa Pililla 4-Stag Derby" on Oct. 15, which offers a top prize of P300,000 for an entry fee of P6,600.

Designated screener is highly respected breeder Francis Afable.



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(Araneta Coliseum)
Melbourne Tigers vs Selecta RP

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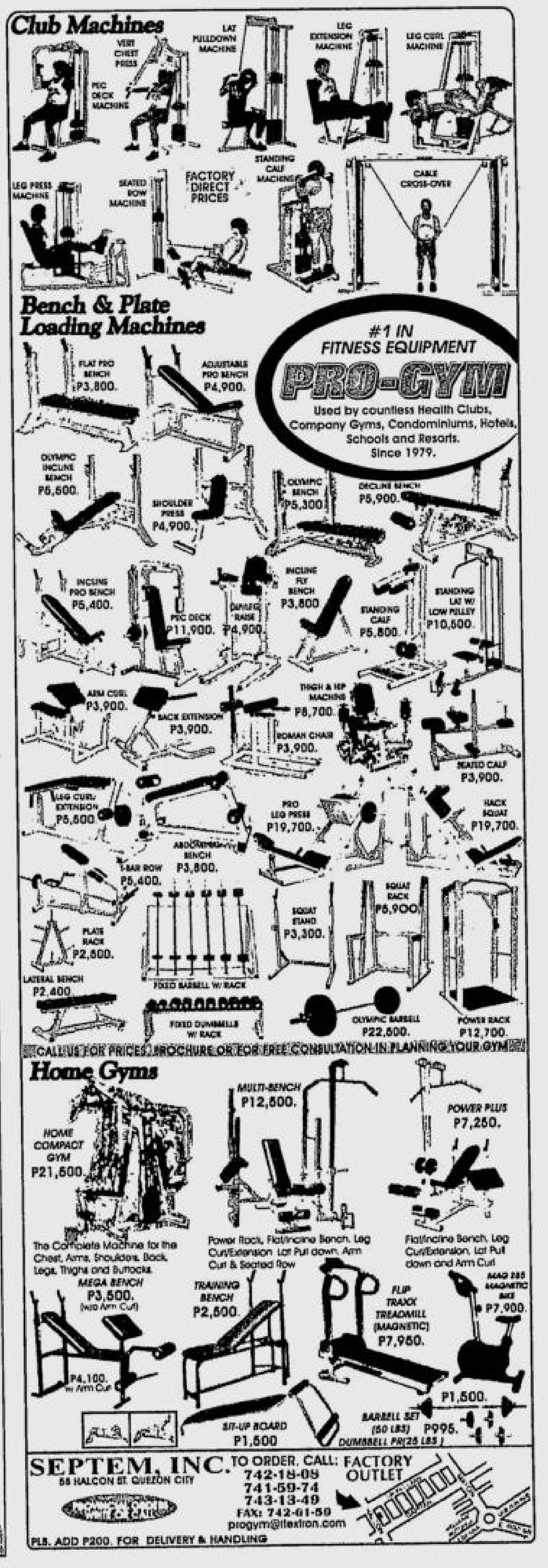

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LANG: I still have a family to feed. FILE PHOTO

What if he broke my neck?—Lang

By June Navarro

GAMES TODAY (Philsports Arena)
5:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Talk N Text
7:30 p.m.—San Miguel vs Red Bull

BATANG Red Bull's Tony Lang is hell-bent on pursuing a criminal case against Terquinn Mott of San Miguel Beer.

Upon the advice of Red Bull's company lawyers, the aggrieved Lang will submit himself to a medical check-up and enter Mott into a police blotter in preparation for a full-blown legal battle against the San Miguel import.

"What if he (Mott) broke my neck or fractured my skull? That would be the end of my career and I still have a family to feed," Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao quoted the 6-foot-8 Lang as saying.

Guaio said Lang would most likely file serious physical injuries against Mott.

Lang also feared that Mott would again "take a cheap shot at me" when the Thunder and the Beermen collide in Game 3 of their PBA Commissioner's Cup best-of-five semifinal series tonight.

The Thunder have a commanding 2-0 lead and are all poised to wrap it up at the Philsports Arena.

Mott held Lang by the neck and threatened him with harm on the way to the duguot during the halftime of Game 2 between the Thunder and the Beermen Sunday night at the Araneta Coliseum.

"He's still angry at Mott and he considers it as a serious threat to his career," Guiao told the INQUIRER.

Guiao added the Red Bull management would "definitely throw its support behind Lang."

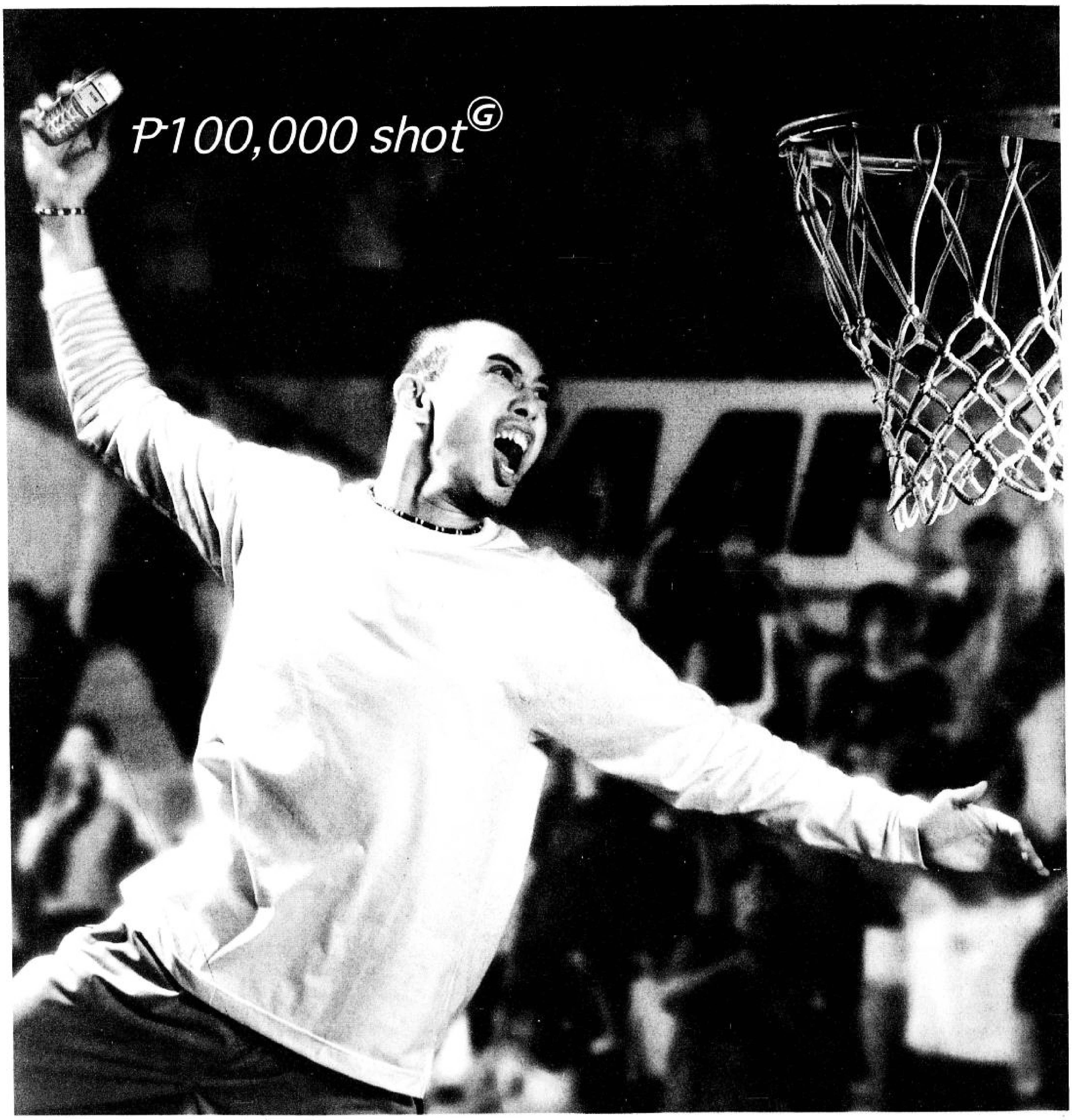
Aside from facing charges in court, the hulking Mott was fined P100,000 by the PBA Commissioner's Office for his physical assault on Lang.

Mott, Dela Cruz, Bayno fined

The Commissioner's Office also asked San Miguel Beer assistant coach Art Dela Cruz to pay P20,000 for exhibiting aggressive behavior against Talk N Text coach Bill Bayno.

Dela Cruz and Bayno engaged themselves in a heated argument after the American coach tried to intervene during the fray between Mott and Lang.

Bayno was slapped P10,000 but for a different case leveled against him. Bayno breached league rules when he fed coaching instructions to assistant coach Ariel Vanguardia in Game 2 while serving his ejection inside the Phone Pals' dugout.



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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

FERNANDO continues to clear sidewalks, junking one mayor's suggestion that goods confiscated from illegal vendors be given to jails, orphanages and other charitable institutions. He insists that the goods be destroyed.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

■ Architect who dropped Arroyo name arrested / A26

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Anti-vendor drive splits Metro execs

By Leila B. Salaverria, Christian V. Esguerra and Tina Santos

METRO Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando's crackdown on illegal sidewalk vendors has sparked opposing reactions from local officials in towns and cities in the metropolis.

The division became even more apparent as Fernando rejected Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's proposal that wares confiscated from illegal vendors, especially food, be donated to jails, orphanages and other charitable institutions.

"That cannot be because that is unmanageable," Fernando said in Filipino on Monday.

He maintained that the confiscated goods have to be destroyed lest the MMDA employees who seize the goods become interested in them. He said he does not want suspicion to fall on his employees.

He earlier said MMDA men would pour kerosene on the goods of illegal sidewalk vendors to make the goods useless and to deter the vendors from coming back to the sidewalks.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay's spokesperson yesterday said that while the mayor agrees with Fernando's plan of clearing the sidewalks, there must be a "balance between maintaining order in the streets and giving livelihood opportunities to the needy."

Lito Anzures, Binay's spokesperson, said the Makati government would remove obstructions from sidewalks but it would also make sure there would be a place where the displaced vendors could transfer.

Anzures also said Binay has ordered all Makati barangay chairs to check if sidewalk vendors proliferate in their areas.

Asked whether the Makati government would implement Fernando's plan to spray kerosene on the vendors' wares, Anzures said there might not be any need for it.

"We may not reach that point because we are able to organize the vendors," he said.

Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco said he supports Fernando's campaign "100 percent."

"Chair Fernando has shown political will rarely seen in public officials nowadays," Tiangco said. "I know there will always be those who oppose such a campaign. But many more approve of it."

Tiangco himself said he is cracking down not only on illegal vendors in Navotas but also on permanent structures on sidewalks.

"Sidewalks are for pedestrians," he added. "They're not for selling goods."

But in Parañaque City, police chief Supt. Ruben Catabona said he would never use kerosene to carry out the MMDA plan.

"If we can have our way, we will not use kerosene," Catabona said. "We will just issue (penalty) tickets to illegal vendors and sue them."

He said the city government has a number of ordinances that prohibit vendors from illegally

ANTI/A26

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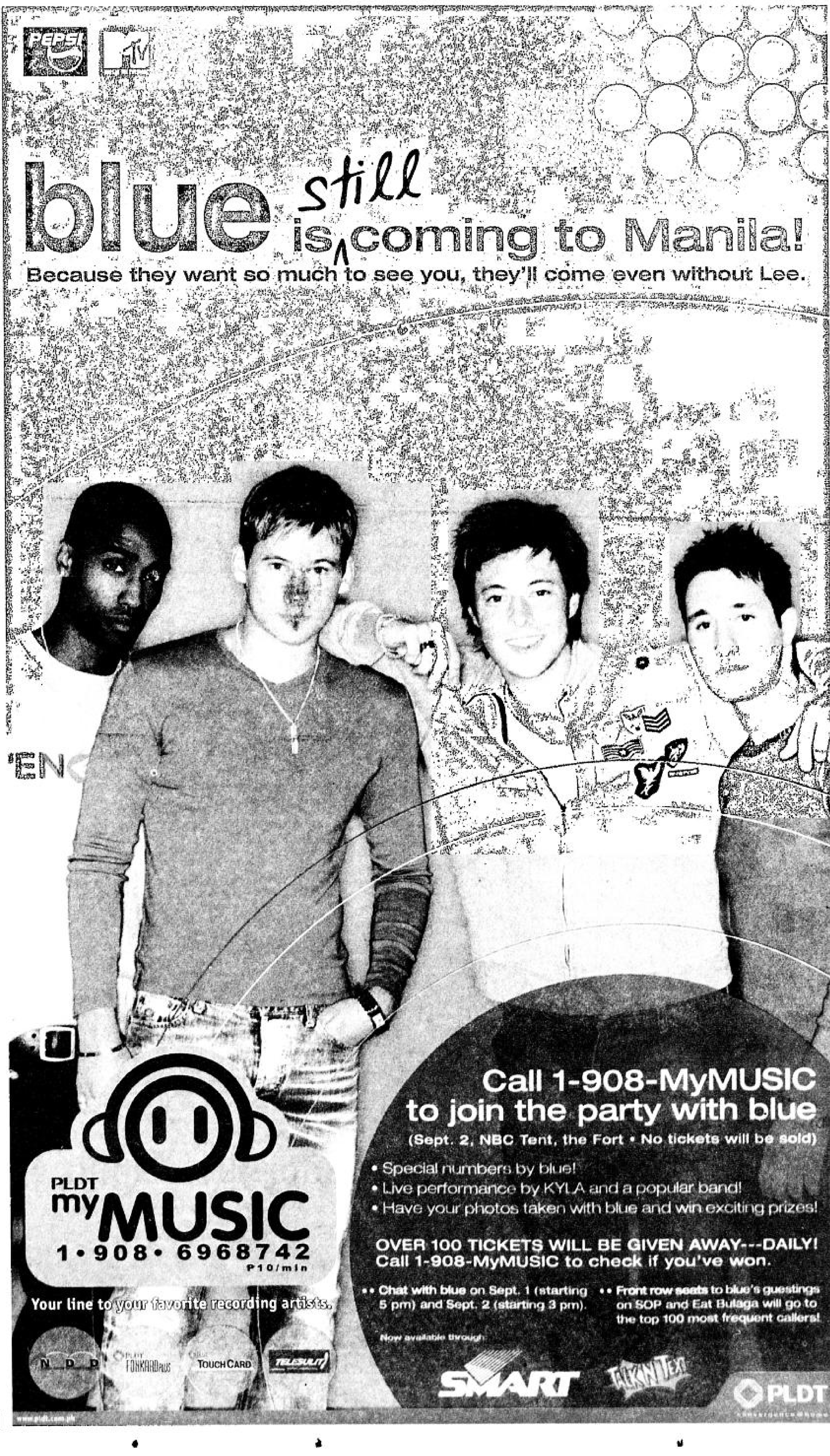
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Lawyer Lozano files raps vs his captors

LOZANO

By Agnes E. Donato

A LAWYER who tried to entrap officials of the Philippine National Police Narcotics Group for bribery was himself trapped by the people he had intended to catch.

This was how lawyer Oliver Lozano explained his arrest for alleged bribery by officials of the PNP's Narcotics Group, whom he sued for falsification, unlawful arrest, arbitrary detention, violation of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials and violation of Human Rights.

Named respondents in the case filed with the Quezon City prosecutor's office were Anselmo Avenido, Col. Evna Ruiz, Major Romualdo Iglesia and PO1 Anjo Villanueva, all of the PNP Narcotics Group.

Lozano, 51, a lawyer of former First Lady Imelda Marcos

Lozano, was arrested last week after he allegedly handed over P15,000 to Villanueva, supposedly in exchange for the officer's "cooperation" when the latter submitted an oral testimony in a case involving Lozano's client, Jay dela Cuesta.

In an affidavit, the lawyer claimed that his arrest resulted from an "entrapment" he had set for the NarGroup agents who had allegedly tried to extort P200,000 from his client in exchange for the dismissal of his "ecstasy" case.

Lozano said the agents managed to get P60,000 from Dela Cuesta's ATM account.

"The purpose of the entrapment is to prove that (the involved) NarGroup agents are in the habit of extorting money, commonly known as 'hulidap,'" he said.

The entrapment started on Aug. 20, when he warned Villanueva of his client's threat to file charges against the officer if Dela Cuesta was forced to pay P200,000, according to Lozano.

"As part of my pre-entrapment operation, I suggested a compromise: Retain the money withdrawn from the account. The idea was to let him ask for additional money. Thereafter, I brought the bail money of P15,000, inserted in a pamphlet," he said.

He said that while holding the pamphlet containing the money, he told Villanueva that it was for attorney's fee. Then, he told the officer that he will go to the comfort room. He said Villanueva then opened a drawer in his table and told him to put the money there.

"The bait worked, I thought. I placed the pamphlet on the table. (Then,) NarGroup agents swarmed around me and placed me under custody," Lozano said.

He claimed that even while he was in detention, an unidentified agent had asked him P1 million for his freedom.

"The bait money was never offered to bribe or corrupt. There was no agreement (between me and Villanueva for him) to perform an act or to do (me) a favor in consideration for any offer of money," the lawyer maintained.

"I never told Villanueva to desist or retract (his claim against my client). His affidavit was already filed in court. It was senseless to bribe the arresting officer, especially with a pittance, inside the headquarters," he added.

Architect who dropped Arroyo name arrested

By Alcuin Papa

AN ARCHITECT who claimed to have "strong connections" with First Gentleman Mike Arroyo was arrested for extortion on Monday.

Deputy Director Reynaldo Velasco, National Capital Region Police Office chief, said Manuel Tolentino Jr., of Sampaloc, Manila, was arrested after a contractor complained that the suspect tried to extort money from him and even dropped the name of Arroyo.

According to the contractor, the suspect asked for P200,000 to facilitate the release of funds from the Department of Budget and Management in Malacañang.

The funds were supposed to be used for a project in Sibulan, Negros Oriental, which the Office of the President earlier approved.

Tolentino told the contractor he could procure any document needed for the release of the funds because of his alleged "ties" with Arroyo.

On Monday, members of the NCRPO and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission set up an entrapment operation to collar the suspect.

Velasco said the contractor met with the suspect in front of the Chowking branch on J.P. Laurel St., near Malacañang about 5 p.m.

The policemen immediately arrested the suspect as soon as the payoff was made. They recovered from the suspect photocopies of documents from Malacañang and the DBM.

The Office of the President ordered the Manila Prosecutor's Office to charge Tolentino with estafa, Velasco said.

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Atienza favors proposal on curfew for city youths

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday threw his support behind councilors proposing a city-wide curfew from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. for all youths below 18 years old.

But Atienza said the city council should "fine-tune" the curfew system so that it would not be abused.

He said the curfew would be an additional burden for Manila youths, since it is a restriction on their movements.

"It's necessary, therefore, that the implementation of the ordinance should not be a source of corruption and human rights abuses," he said.

The curfew ordinance is set for third and final reading in the council next week.

Its author, Councilor Julio Logarta Jr. of the 6th district, said the measure intends to keep minors at home so they would be protected from crime and other forms of violence.

But 3rd district Councilor Jhosep Lopez questioned the indeterminate duration of the curfew.

"A curfew cannot be indefinite," Lopez said. "Once the reason for its imposition has passed, then the curfew should be scrapped."

The curfew for minors was first imposed in Manila in 1958 but was repealed in 1997.

At least four other cities in Metro Manila— Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Parañaque and Makati—impose a curfew on youths.

The new curfew is effective from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. the following day, including weekends and all holidays.

Exempted from the curfew are those carrying "curfew passes" issued by the barangay and those accompanied by their parents, guardians or other elders who are of legal age.

Also exempted are night school students or working students whose schedules require them to be on the streets or outside their residence beyond 10 p.m., as well as those running lawful errands such as buying medicines or using phones for emergency purposes.

The proposed ordinance tasks the police and barangay authorities to implement the curfew.

All youths apprehended for violating the curfew, however, must not be held for more than two hours.

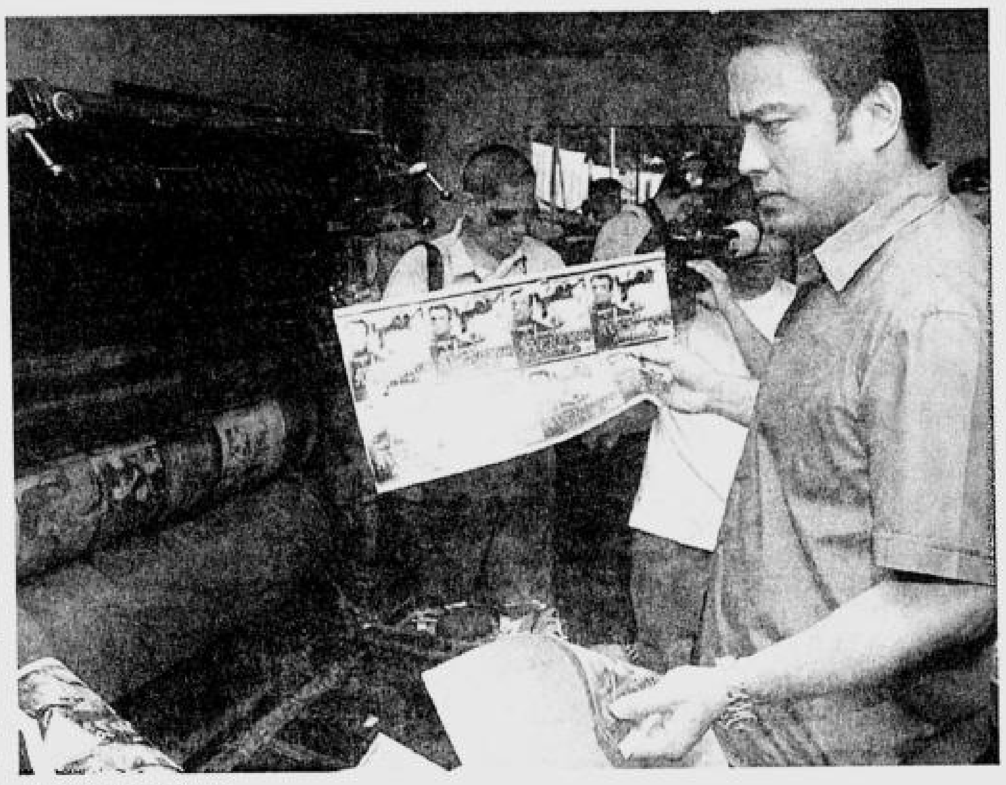
The bill provides the creation of a "Barangay Curfew Advisory Board" to determine and hand down sanctions for first-and second-time offenders, and recommend the filing of a case against third-time offenders.

The board will be composed of the barangay chair and two *tanod*. The barangay secretary will record the identities of the offenders; their ages, address, birthday; and the time and place of apprehension.

Violators caught on their third offense face a jail term of 1 to 10 days, a P2,000-fine, or both, if the judge decides so.

The mayor may suspend the implementation of the curfew in any, some, or all of the barangays for a specific period if required by public interest.

The city legal officer is also tasked to provide legal assistance to the barangay chair in the prosecution of the violators.



REVILLA'S RAID
Actor and Video Regulatory Board Chair Bong Revilla inspects the output of a printing machine that makes labels of pirated VCDs and DVDs. Revilla, accompanied by policemen and soldiers, found the machine in a warehouse in Sitio Langhaya in Antipolo City, Rizal.
DENNIS SABANGAN

Brave vendor chases robbers

By Leila Salaverria

VENDOR ANDREW Villanueva, a witness to a robbery, found the courage to chase the suspects and helped in their capture in Makati on Monday.

But a stray bullet hit a 2-year-old girl and a 35-year-old man when Villanueva grabbed the gun of suspect Alimodin T. Ali, 20. Arrested with Ali were Sok U. Utto, 27, and Dolly B. Danding, 34. All three are from Taguig.

The three men had just robbed the passengers of a bus when Villanueva, members of the Makati City Public Safety Department and bystanders chased the suspects, who began shooting at them.

The suspects boarded a jeepney, followed by Villanueva and the others. Villanueva grabbed one suspect's gun and the jeepney passengers began mauling the suspects.

In the melee, a shot rang out. One bullet passed through the right foot of Hershey de Jesus, 2, and then lodged itself in the right thigh of Roberto Domingo, 35.

GMA deathly silent as Big J battles the windmills

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

WE don't have the latest score on Sen. Robert Jaworski's battle against the killer

Napocor plants in Calaca, Batangas.

But after we reported on the fight the Big J has been waging against the coal-fired plants, Calaca 1 and 2, several concerned callers wondered why, indeed, Jaworski appears to be the only one putting up a fight.

Well, Jaworski, chair of the Senate committee on environment, is not exactly alone. As had been mentioned, he also gets some support from Sen. Loren Legarda.

There's also Greenpeace, the environmental activist group trying to do its share.

What's rather galling is that Malacañang itself appears unperturbed despite the very alarming developments in the area which obviously continues to be plagued and poisoned by the Napocor plants.

In his recent report, Efren Danao of the Star confirmed that nine persons have already died of lung cancer in the Calaca community hosting the coal-fed plants with at least 19 other residents suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

The situation should get an emergency response from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, whose head man could still be feeling giddy following his confirmation by the Commission on Appointment.

***

No signs of life from the DENR. Malacañang couldn't care less.

Now, to make matters worse, there's this report that there are bigger, deadlier Napocor plants in other parts of Luzon.

Greenpeace, through Red Constantino, bared that the gigantic 1,200-megawatt coal plant of Mirant in Sual, Pangasinan "uses coal laden with mercury and other heavy metals."

Federico "Dick" Pascual, my ex-boss here at the INQUIRER, reports that in Mauban, Quezon, the 440-MW of QPL has been producing toxins way higher than its counterparts in Calaca, Sual and in Masinloc, Zambales.

Asked Red Constantino: "If Napocor' 600-MW plant in Calaca produces 62.62 tons of ash per hour (according to Napocor documents), how much waste is produced by the 1,200-MW Sual coal plant of Mirant? How much waste do all the coal plants of Luzon combined produce per hour, per month, per year and for the duration of their contracts?"

***

The red light should be flashing all over to warn the general public against these killer plants.

What's truly alarming here is that, with this report about the existence of other more sinister coal-fired plants, Sen. Jaworski could have unwittingly assumed the role of Don Quijote taking on the windmills.

Yes, there are now even bigger battles other than in Calaca, but Malacañang and Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez appear to be enjoying themselves watching the one-sided battles.

People, poisoned, are slowly dying.

Calaca plant manager Henry Alcalde meanwhile continues to maintain that they have a computerized monitoring system that could detect the heavy presence of mercury.

Nobody appears ready to contest that. Reason: Our government lacks the necessary equipment to monitor emissions from the coal-fired plants.

***

Given that situation, the best Jaworski could do was look for an independent body to determine mercury emissions from the coal-fired plants.

As this developed, Napocor announced over the weekend that power rates in Luzon will shoot up if it would shut down its coal-fired power plants.

Napocor said the elimination of the coal plants will hike effective selling rate by P0.92 per kWh, or an increase of P240 for households with an average consumption of 200 kWh and a P360 increase for those using 300 kWh a month.

"The proposal of some groups to shut down coal plants runs counter with the government's commitment to keep power rates affordable," said Napocor officer-in-charge Roland Quilala.

This should explain Malacanang's deathly silence?

Anti-vendor drive splits Metro execs

From page A25

selling their wares, especially on sidewalks.

"Of course, we're fully supportive of the MMDA's campaign," Catabona stressed, "but there are a lot of approaches in dealing with these vendors. There are legal remedies."

Catabona said these approaches are either mission-oriented, which he described as "military," and service-oriented, which puts premium on the legal process.

"We prefer the service-oriented way," he said, adding that the use of kerosene could be classified as a military strategy.

Caloocan City Councilor Nathanael Santiago led a group of sidewalk vendors in denouncing Fernando's kerosene method.

"Chair Fernando should have consulted first the affected people and offered them a program that would solve the traffic problem but would not affect their means of livelihood," Santiago said in a news conference.

He suggested a moratorium until Fernando could come up with a solution that would be acceptable to the vendors.

Santiago also initiated the launch of the Alyansa ng mga Manininda sa Kalookan (Alma Ka), which he said is composed of thousands of vendors in the Monumento area.

Alma Ka spokesperson Honorio Mañalac said Fernando should stop treating vendors like criminals.

In a statement, the Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Lungsod said members of Congress should stop Fernando's campaign and he should be investigated for his harsh actions

Pedring Fadrigon of KPML in particular referred to Iloilo Rep. Buboy Syjuco's proposed resolution calling for an investigation of the MMDA operations.

The fisherfolk group Pamalakaya called for an investigation of what it called Fernando's usurpation of executive, judicial and legislative powers in his operations. The group said Congress should clip Fernando's powers.

"The MMDA chair seized constitutional powers bestowed on Metro Manila congressmen and mayors," said Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap

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	5 SPIRIT: STALLION OF THE CIMARRON		5 TRIPLE X 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	5 JOLOGS
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1	JOLOGS
2 (DTS)	GAMITAN
3 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
4	SIGNS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	JOLOGS
2 (DOLBY)	SIGNS
3 (DTS)	SPIRIT
4	TRIPLE X

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	JOLOGS
2	LILO & STITCH
3	TRIPLE X
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	SWEETEST THING
2	JOLOGS
3 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
4 (DTS)	INSOMNIA

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1	SWEETEST THING
2	JOLOGS
3	TRIPLE X

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	SIGNS
2	SEX & ZEN
3	GAMITAN
4	JOLOGS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
2	JOLOGS
3 (DTS)	SIGNS
4	GAMITAN
5	SPIRIT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	JOLOGS
2	SIGNS
3	GAMITAN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	JOLOGS
2	SIGNS
3	GAMITAN

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233

1	LILO & STITCH
2	BIGLANG LIKO
3	JOLOGS
4	SAGAD

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	GAMITAN
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	TRIPLE X
2	GAMITAN
3	JOLOGS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	SWEETEST THING
2	GAMITAN
3	JOLOGS
4	TRIPLE X

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY)	TRIPLE X
2	GAMITAN
3 (DTS)	SIGNS
4	INSOMNIA

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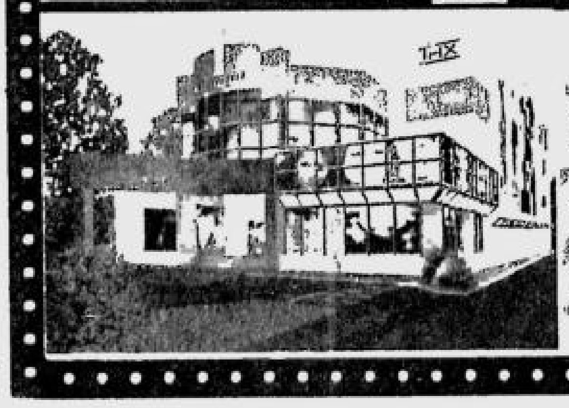
ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS



PREMIERE CINEMA NOW SHOWING
SCREENING HOURS (WED, THURS)
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AUSTIN POWERS
GOLDMEMBER

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173888

1	AUSTIN POWERS
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	TRIPLE X
4	SIGNS
5	DERAILED
6	JOLOGS
7	GAMITAN
8	SPIRIT

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	JOLOGS
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	SIGNS
4	SPIRIT
5	TRIPLE X
6	GAMITAN
7	DERAILED
8	KILLING ME SOFTLY
9	AUSTIN POWERS...
10	JOLOGS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9380749

1	JOLOGS
2	SPIRIT
3	LILO & STITCH
4	SIGNS
5	TRIPLE X
6	GAMITAN
7	AUSTIN POWERS
8	DERAILED
9	UNFAITHFUL
10	KILLING ME SOFTLY
11	INSOMNIA
12	JOLOGS

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	SIGNS
2	SWEETEST THING
3	LILO & STITCH
4	AUSTIN POWERS
5	INSOMNIA
6	TRIPLE X
7	SPIRIT
8	UNFAITHFUL
9	JOLOGS
10	GAMITAN
11	DERAILED
12	JOLOGS

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	TRIPLE X
2	DERAILED
3	SIGNS
4	TRIPLE X
5	UNFAITHFUL
6	SPIRIT
7	INSOMNIA
8	GAMITAN
9	JOLOGS
10	AUSTIN POWERS
11	JOLOGS
12	KILLING ME SOFTLY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	DERAILED
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	GAMITAN
4	JOLOGS
5	AUSTIN POWERS
6	SIGNS
7	SPIRIT
8	TRIPLE X

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	SPIRIT
2	DERAILED
3	AUSTIN POWERS
4	SIGNS
5	INSOMNIA
6	LILO & STITCH
7.	JOLOGS
8	TRIPLE X
9	GAMITAN
10	UNFAITHFUL

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	UNFAITHFUL
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
3	LILO & STITCH
4	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
5	SPIRIT
6	GAMITAN
7	JOLOGS
8	TRIPLE X

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	GAMITAN
2	CLOSED
3	SPIRIT
4	TRIPLE X
5	JOLOGS
6	POWERPUFF GIRLS
7	CLOSED
8	KILLING ME SOFTLY

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	SIGNS
2	TRIPLE X
3	SPIRIT
4	GAMITAN
5	ORANGE COUNTY
6	JOLOGS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	GAMITAN
2	SIGNS
3	TRIPLE X
4	JOLOGS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	SIGNS
2	GAMITAN
3	JOLOGS
4	AUSTIN POWERS

SM CITY DAVAO
2976888

1	TRIPLE X
2	JOLOGS
3	GAMITAN
4	BIGLANG LIKO
5	ORANGE COUNTY
6	SPIRIT

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
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VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
633-6976

1	SIGNS 11:15 FS/11:45 MF/2:00/4:15/6:30/8:45/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:45 END
2	AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER 11:05 MF/1:00/3:00/5:00/7:00/9:00/ 10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END

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1 THX	SIGNS
2	AUSTIN POWERS
3	SIGNS
4	SPIRIT
5	JOLOGS
6	TRIPLE X
7	GAMITAN
8	DERAILED
9	UNFAITHFUL
10	LILO & STITCH

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	SIGNS
2	TRIPLE X
3	GAMITAN
4	DERAILED
5	JOLOGS
6	SPIRIT
7	AUSTIN POWERS

Metro East -
Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	TRIPLE X
2	SPIRIT
3	AUSTIN POWERS
4	DERAILED
5	UNFAITHFUL
6	GAMITAN
7	SIGNS
8	JOLOGS

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	TRIPLE X
2	SPIRIT
3	AUSTIN POWERS
4	DERAILED
5	UNFAITHFUL
6	GAMITAN
7	SIGNS
8	JOLOGS

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	TRIPLE X
2	SPIRIT
3	AUSTIN POWERS
4	SIGNS
5	GAMITAN
6	JOLOGS

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	THE SWEETEST THING
2	JOLOGS
3	TRIPLE X
4	KILLING ME SOFTLY
5	ABOUT A BOY
6	THE THIRD WHEEL

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	THE SWEETEST THING
2	TRIPLE X
3	SPIRIT
4	POWER PUFF GIRLS
5	JOLOGS
6	ORANGE COUNTY

Star Mills-
San Fernando, Pamp. 875 1927
961 5318 / 5270

1	GAMITAN
2	SPIRIT
3	SIGNS
4	JOLOGS
5	SORORITY BOYS
6	SIGNS

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RATED: MUST-SEE BY

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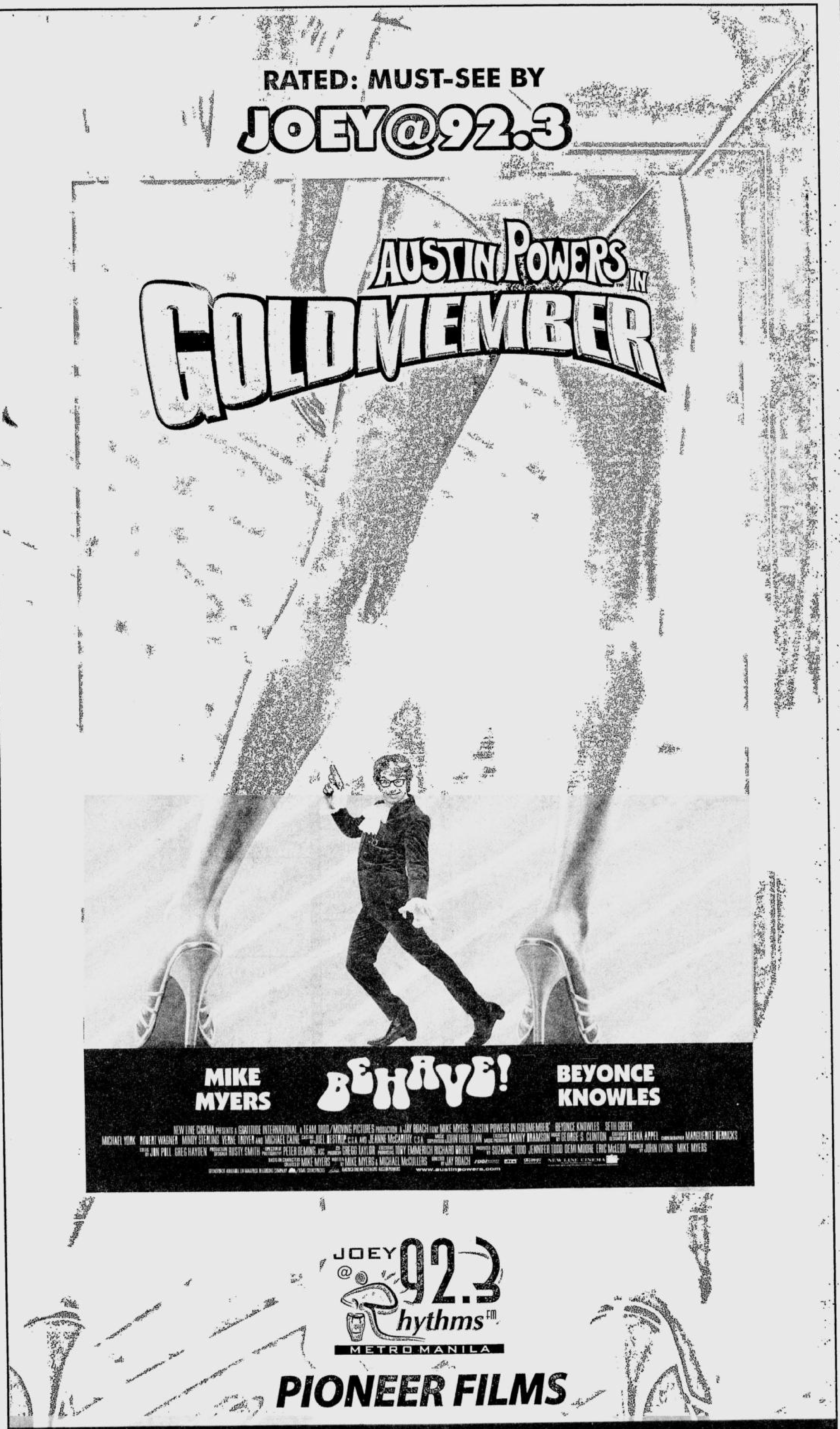

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www.austinpowers.com

JOEY @ 92.3 Rhythms FM
METRO MANILA

PIONEER FILMS

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13

OPENS TODAY

Life's hardships . . .

From page A31

Elpidio Quirino, Ruffa is fair-skinned, intelligent, articulate and is very much entrenched in the social circle.

Since she announced that she would spend more time in the country, Ruffa has been swamped with offers. She is very much visible as the image model of Gandang **Ricky Reyes.**

The producers of the Cory Quirino film-bio have had box-office hits of real-life dramas they produced in the past.

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We are in search of
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Auditions will be held on Friday,
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Please register before the audition date
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Be ready with your standard routine/act.

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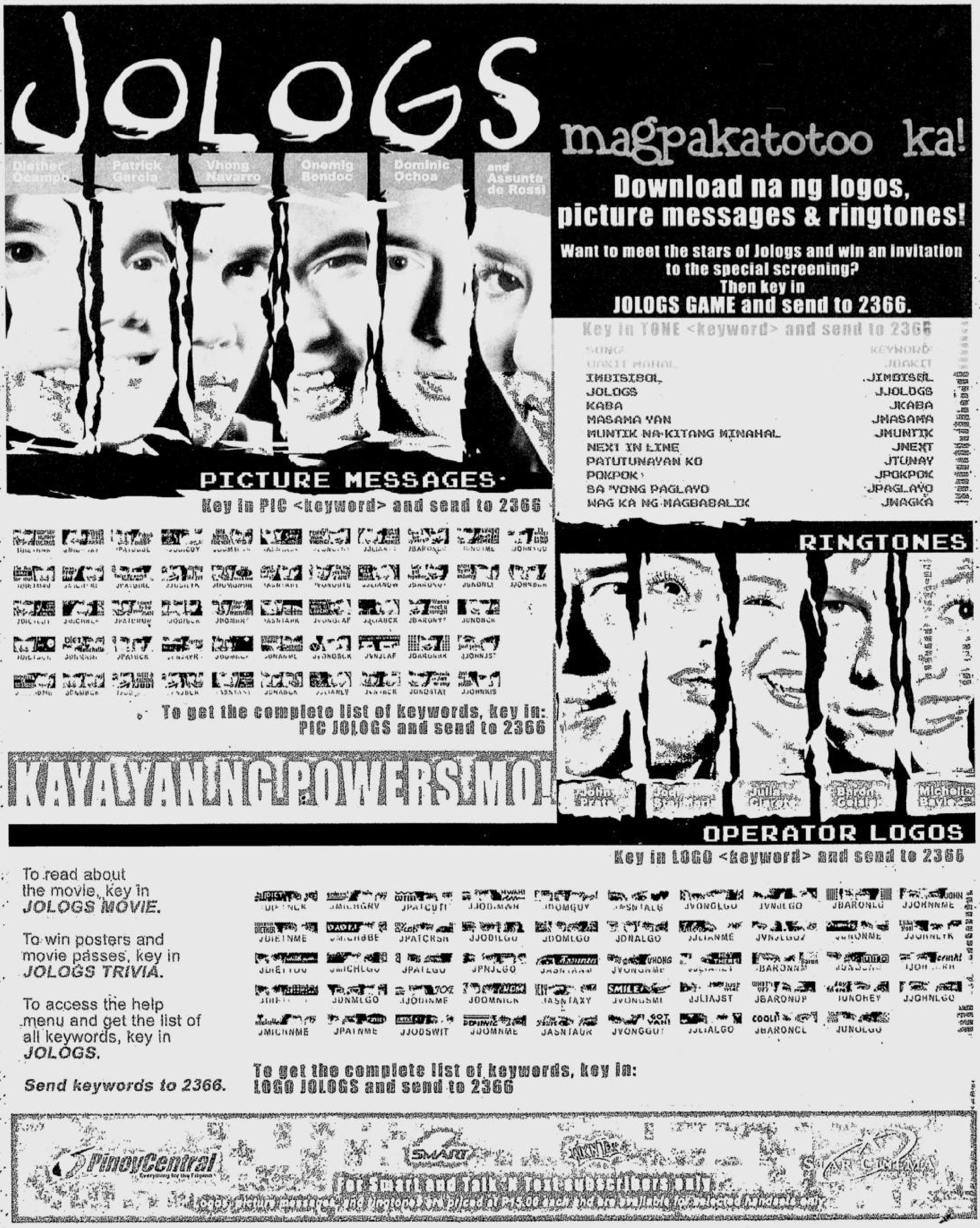

JOLOGS

Diether Ocampo
Patrick Garcia
Vhong Navarro
Onemig Bondoc
Dominic Ochoa
and Assunta de Rossi

magpakatotoo ka!

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JOLOGS GAME and send to 2366.

Key in TONE <keyword> and send to 2366

SONG	KEYWORD
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IMBISIBOL	JIMBISBL
JOLOGS	JJOLOGS
KABA	JKABA
MASAMA YAN	JMASAMA
MUNTIK NA KITANG MINAHAL	JMUNTIK
NEXT IN LINE	JNEXT
PATUTUNAYAN KO	JTUNAY
POKPOK	JPOKPOK
SA 'YONG PAGLAYO	JPAGLAYO
WAG KA NG MAGBABALIK	JWAGKA

RINGTONES

PICTURE MESSAGES
Key in PIC <keyword> and send to 2366

To get the complete list of keywords, key in:
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OPERATOR LOGOS
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To read about the movie, key in *JOLOGS MOVIE.*

To win posters and movie passes, key in *JOLOGS TRIVIA.*

To access the help menu and get the list of all keywords, key in *JOLOGS.*

Send keywords to 2366.

To get the complete list of keywords, key in:
LOGO JOLOGS and send to 2366

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

INSOMNIA R13 12:10,2:35,5:00, 7:25,9:50	**SPIRIT** GP 11:40,1:40,3:40, 5:40,7:40,9:40	**AUTIN POWER** P13 11:30,1:30,3:30. 5:40,7:50,10.00
TRIPLE X P13 12:00,2:30,5:00, 7:30,10:00	**DERAILED** P13 12:50,3:00,5:10. 7:20,9:30	**SIGNS** P13 12:50,3:10,5:30. 7:50,10:10

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CINEMA 1
TRIPLE X
11:30, 2:05, 4:40,
7:15, 10:00
P 13

2
SIGNS
12:10, 2:35, 5:00,
7:25, 9:50
P 13

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	JOLOGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	GAMITAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	AUSTIN POWERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SIGNS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	UNFAITHFUL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	DERAILED
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SIGNS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	DERAILED
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TAMPISAW / MONSTER BALL
ODEON	DERAILED
ODEON-2	RESIDENT EVIL / PILAK
ROBEN	GAMITAN
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SUM OF ALL FEARS / 7 DAYS TO LIVE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	SEXZ &ZEN THE UNTOLD STORY
REMAR	DERAILED
REMAR-2	GAMITAN

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	GAMITAN
B	JOLOGS
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-2	SIGNS

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-2	KILLING ME SOFTLY
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GAMITAN
CINEMA-6	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-7	INSOMNIA
CINEMA-8	JOLOGS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AUTIN POWERS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SPIRIT
CINEMA-12	SIGNS
CINEMA-14	DERAILED
CINEMA-15	JOLOGS

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA
CINEMA-5	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-6	SELDA

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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www.disney.com/therookie

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

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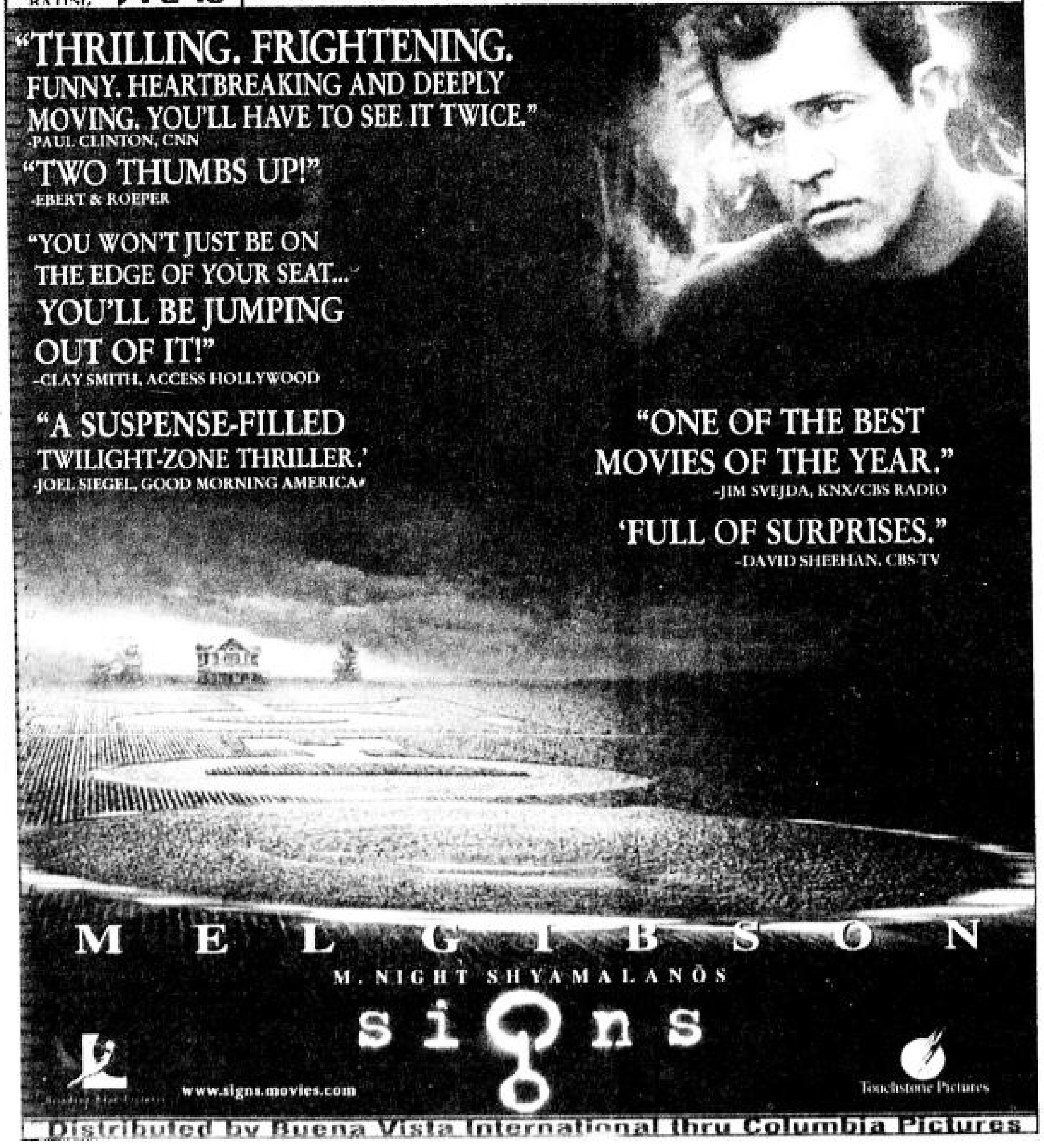

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Maui Taylor: "Sweet girl gone very bold."
- Maridol Rañoa-Bismark, The Philippine Star

"Higit sa lahat ang hinangaan namin ay ang pagkakagawa ng pelikula."
- Leo Bukas, Taliba

"Quark knows the film medium well..."
-Mario Bautista, Manila Bulletin

"Maui Taylor: Small but delectable."
-Eric Ramos, FHM

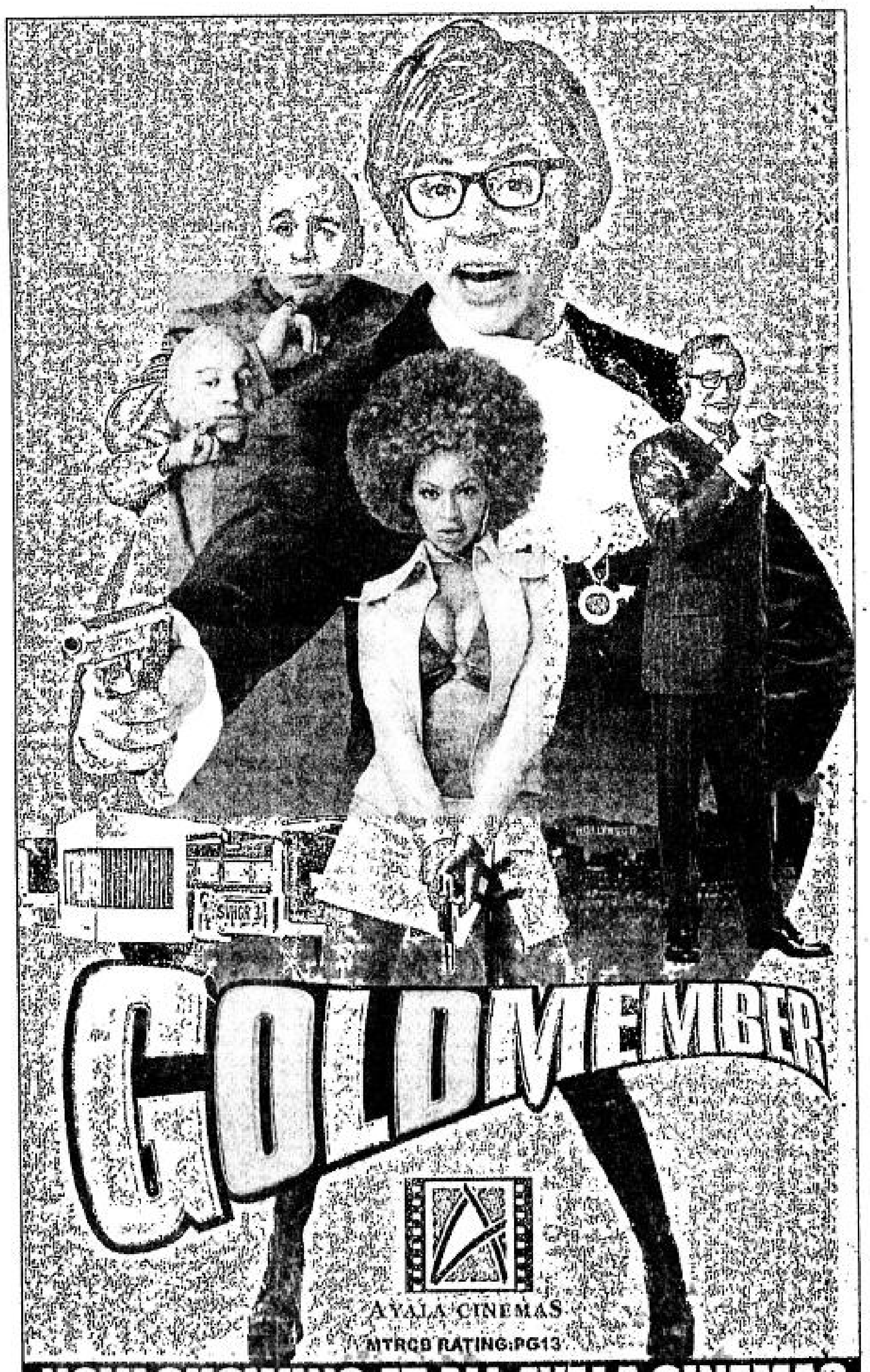
"Maui expresses a wide range of emotions from reasonable innocence to crazy wickedness."
-Edgar O. Cruz, The Daily Tribune

"The movie meshes sex, intrigue, scandal and manipulation into one powerful and gripping web."
-Gerardine Fe C. Trillana, Malaya

directed by QUARK HENARES

VIVA

NOW SHOWING



AYALA CINEMAS
MTRCB RATING:PG13

NOW SHOWING AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS

MANILA BULLETIN

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Special foodfest on NGC

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST week, we found ourselves watching the National Geographic Channel every weeknight at 9 p.m., for the cable channels' week-long series of specials on exotic cuisines. Since the series is being replayed this week, we're running this appreciation of those shows, to whet your appetite into viewing them, this second time around.

The series led off with "A Peking Duck's Tale," on Chinese cuisine's prized culinary gem. Peking Duck started out as a feast for emperors, but it has been "democratized" for most everyone to savor.

The ducks are carefully grown and systematically fattened through force-feeding. It is traditionally roasted in a special oven stocked with wood from fruit trees. The documentary takes viewers through the entire process, from prestigious duck farms to the "authentic" kitchens where the duck is cooked, cut up and served.

We could relate to this particular program because, some years ago, we were treated to a special lunch in the "original" Peking Duck restaurant in Beijing.

The Peking Duck we feasted on was truly scrumptious, but what struck us most of all was the excitement of the diners at the prospect of eating this special Peking Duck at this famous restaurant:

This was our first time to eat at a "standing room only" restaurant! Even as we were still eating, there was already a line of prospective diners complaining behind our chair, muttering loudly and complaining about the long time we were taking to consume our portion of the prized duck! (Of course, we blithely ignored them and concentrated on enjoying the succulent meal as much as it deserved to be savored.)

The next NGC food program we viewed was "Eating the Uneatable." It was about all the unusual food items that were eaten by the mountain tribes in China's Yunan province—rodents, reptiles, insects, weeds, etc.

These unusual meals could turn off some viewers, but we're adventurous when it comes to food and have eaten our share of *ahas*, *bayawak*, locusts, maggots and stuff, so we viewed the show with interest.

The show also went into the tribesmen's unusual hunting practices and the use of insects and herbs for healing purposes.

Best of all, it showed how man is closely linked to the other creatures around him, and that most anything can be put to good use to assure the survival of people even in the harshest and least fertile regions of the planet.

Next, "Dim Sum Odyssey" detailed the hundreds of dim sum treats in Hong Kong. It showed the origins of and preparation process for such favorites as Prawn Dumplings, Spring Roll and Barbecue Pork Bun, as well as very expensive variations using bird's nest, shark's fin and other exotica.

Finally, "A Taste of Tofu" paid tribute to the food of the masses, and vegetarians' favored friend. It was a delight to see how the "lowly" soya bean could be transformed into myriad forms and dishes, including rare delicacies like blood tofu and translucent bean curd skin.

We hope you will try to catch some of these delectable culinary documentaries this week, specifically "Dim Sum Odyssey," which will be telecast today, Aug. 28, at 2 p.m., and "A Taste of Tofu," on Friday, Aug. 30, at 2 p.m. They're food for the eyes, mind and heart!

Life's hardships should make Lolita de Leon a promising actress

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

THE LIFE story of **Lolita de Leon**, the big screen's newest sex star, is the stuff that tele-novelas are made of.

One of 10 children, she hardly experienced comfort when she was growing up. Her family was often cash-strapped so she and her siblings had to live separately with their relatives.

"It was sad because we didn't grow up together," shared the 20-year-old Lolita (de Leon), who is **Rachel de la Cruz** in real life. "We didn't have a choice."

Her mother died of a heart attack when Rachel/Lolita was only eight, so she was forced to live with her cousins and start working at a very young age.

"I would wake up very early in the morning to help out in the grocery store of my cousins," she recalled. "After lunch, I would go to school. I had no income because I was living with them."

All the hardship should be useful now as Regal Entertainment launches Lolita in the sex drama, "Laman," directed by her mentor and discoverer, **Maryo J. de los Reyes**.

Direk Maryo said that in scenes which required Lolita to cry, she easily delivered.

Lolita attended an intensive workshop with director **Erik Matti**. She also went to workshops with the Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta) and Bulwagang Gantimpala.

Directors Maryo and **Joey Gosiengfiao** spotted Lolita two years ago at the birthday party of Cavite-based designer **Bong Famy**, a friend of *Direk* Maryo. Famy remembers Lolita as a tomboyish girl who liked wearing men's clothes.

"The first time I saw her, I noticed her striking semblance to **Donita Rose**," Famy recalled. "I invited her to my birthday party because I knew *Direk* Maryo would be there."

"She had the right curves in the right places," Direk Maryo says of the first time he saw her. "But I was reluctant to offer her anything because she might end up as a bold actress na *walang dating* except for the body. I had doubts if she could really deliver."

He said "Red Diaries" was originally meant for Lolita, but Regal matriarch **Lily Monteverde** decided to give it to **Assunta de Rossi**.

Then Lolita was cast in the sex-drama, "Xerex," based on the tabloid column which gives advice on the sexual problems of readers. But the project went to **Ina Raymundo**, **Priscilla Almeda** and **Ara Mina**.

"Bedtime Stories" would have been given to Lolita, too, but **Maricar de Mesa** ended up as its lead star.

The "Laman" script had been on the Regal shelf for the past three years. Written by **Wali Ching**, the script was originally titled "Ikapitong Gloria."

"When Mother Lily was already sure about the project, we decided to launch Lolita," the director said.

"I didn't know that I could act," Lolita said. "I didn't know what I was capable of doing at that time. But I realized it was a chance of a lifetime so I decided to give it a try."

Lolita was a freshman hotel and restaurant management major at St. Joseph College in Cavite when she stopped going to school and started going to acting workshops.

She didn't have qualms about taking on sexy roles.

"For me, it's very easy to undress," she said. "I prepared for it so when I reported on the set for the shooting of 'Laman,' I was ready."

But at first, she kept her movie work from her father. "I wasn't sure what his reaction would be if I told him I would go bold," she said. "It's not easy for any parent to take that. When the movie was finished, I explained it to him. I told him I just wanted to give it a try.

"I guess I'm old enough to make my own decisions," she added. "Some of my brothers and sisters questioned it. But I didn't hesitate because I know I'll earn good money in show biz and I can support my brothers and sisters."

Still, acting in front of the cameras wasn't easy for the newcomer. Fortunately, she had supportive costars, **Elizabeth Oropesa** and **Albert Martinez**.

"They would guide me in every scene," she said. "I was able to adjust easily because of their help."

Lolita has been having jitters because her launching picture is opening today. The movie is up against two Hollywood blockbusters, "Signs" and "Austin Powers 3: Goldmember," and the Star Cinema release, "Jologs."

"I've been praying so hard *dahil maraming kasabay*," she said. "*Sana mapansin din nila ang* movie *ko*."

Lolita wants to follow the same career path of **Jaclyn Jose**. The sexy newcomer signed up a three-year, 12-picture contract with Regal and will be seen next in **Mel Chionglo**'s "Krystal," with **Eddie Garcia** and **Jomari Yllana**.

Then it's another project with *Direk* Maryo, "Lumay," about sex and sorcery, to be filmed in Bohol.

"It's a dream for me to see Lolita make it big in this business," *Direk* Maryo says. "It depends on how she takes her career seriously and makes that dream come true."

Ruffa is it

RUFFA **Gutierrez** was not on the original list of actresses being considered to play **Cory Quirino** in the filming of the latter's celebrated kidnapping case. But the buzz is loud that the movie producers have asked Ruffa to star in the true-story crime drama.

It is said that the actress-beauty queen has been singled out from nearly a dozen choices to play Cory Quirino on the big screen.

The first batch of actresses considered for the movie included **Alice Dixson**, **Dina Bonnevie**, **Dawn Zulueta**, **Charlene Gonzales**, **Pops Fernandez** and **Gretchen Barretto**.

Before Ruffa was chosen, I heard that other names were added to the list, like Assunta de Rossi and even **Alma Moreno**.

The Cory Quirino film-bio fits Ruffa, who has not had a movie for a long time. She had planned to stay in the Philippines longer this time, even before the Cory Quirino movie idea came up. She will be in Manila until December, which gives her more than enough time to finish a movie.

Ruffa and Cory have many things in common. Like the granddaughter of the late President

LIFE'S /A29

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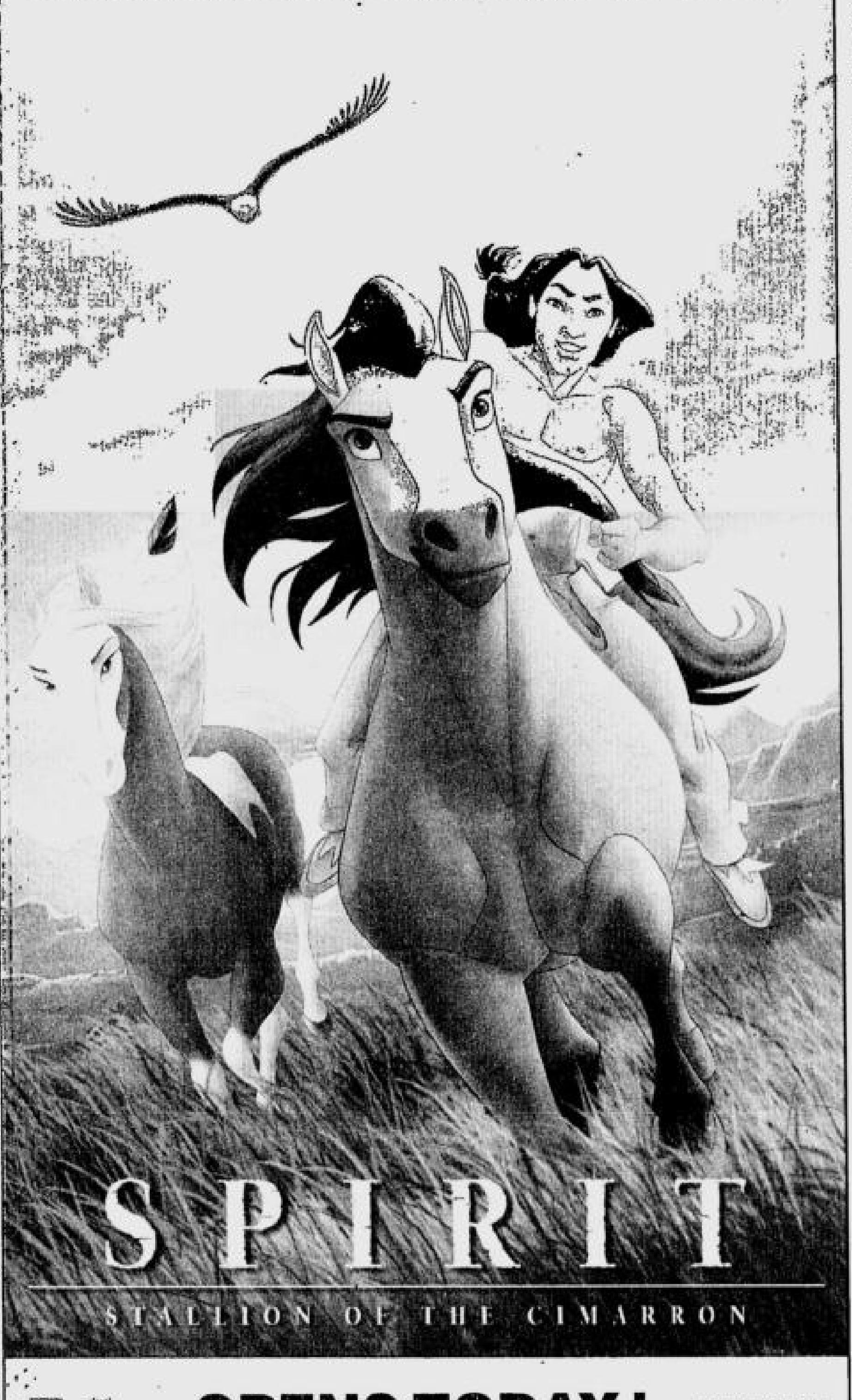

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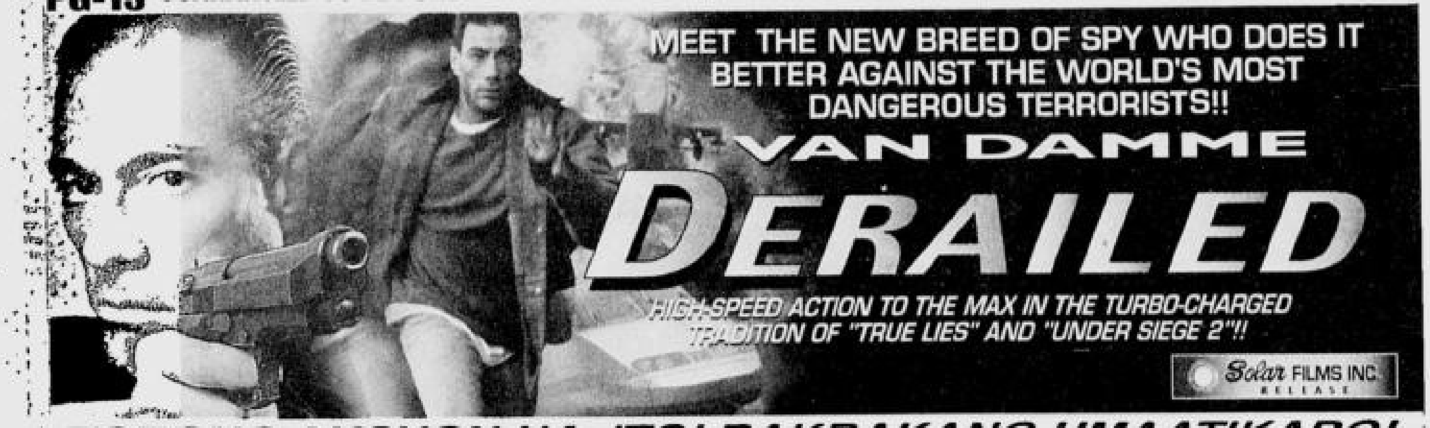
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Columbia Pictures presents the biggest slam-bang action picture of the season! Time Magazine says xXx is "a highly stylized adrenaline rush of a movie." You won't want to miss it.

SECOND WEEK!

THE BEST OF CINEMANILA 2002

Cinema 1

August 27 (Tuesday)
10:30 The Cyclist
1:30 The Navigators
3:30 Eating Air
6:30 Una Casa Con Vista Al Mar
8:30 Good Hands
10:30 No Man's Land

August 28 (Wednesday)
10:30 Eating Air
1:30 Topless Women
3:30 The Cyclist
5:00 Quitting
7:00 Sentimental Destinies
11:30 Seafood

August 29 (Thursday)
10:30 Hana-Bi
1:30 Seafood
3:30 The Carriers are Waiting
6:30 Ring 1
8:30 Ring 2
10:30 Ring 0

Cinema 2

August 27 (Tuesday)
10:30 Central Station
1:30 Seafood
3:30 The Carriers Are Waiting
6:30 Peony Pavilion
8:30 Fastfood, Fast Women
10:30 A Pornographic Affair

August 28 (Wednesday)
10:30 Bashu, The Little Stranger
1:30 Following
3:30 Hana-Bi
6:30 What Time Is It There?
8:30 Peony Pavilion
10:30 Una Casa Con Vista Al Mar

August 29 (Thursday)
10:30 Following
1:30 A City Of Sadness
4:30 Dog Days
6:30 Fastfood, Fast Women
8:30 What Time Is It There?
10:30 A Pornographic Affair

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Milkmaid
Nestlé Fresh Milk
Nestlé Low Fat Milk
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MILO
CORN FLAKES
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KOKO KRUNCH
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MILO
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BUSINESS

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ⊛ Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

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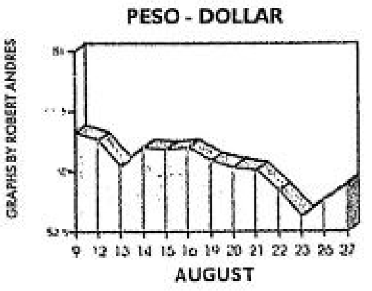
Peso rallies; T-bill rate seen rising

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 52.10 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 27, 2002

¥ 119.06 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 27, 2002

GOLD: $309.80/310.30

per ounce Hong Kong,
Aug. 27, 2002

Aug. 27, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.028278	1.000000	52.3450
Japan	Yen	0.008590	0.008354	0.4373
United Kingdom	Pound	1.565553	1.522500	79.6953
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.131838	0.128212	6.7113
Switzerland	Franc	0.679314	0.660633,	34.5808
Canada	Dollar	0.661314	0.643128	33.6645
Singapore	Dollar	0.584913	0.568828	29.7753
Australia	Dollar	0.558756	0.543390	28.4437
Bahrain	Dinar	2.727599	2.652590	138.8498
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.274208	0.266667	13.9587
Brunei	Dollar	0.584249	0.568182	29.7415
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000115	0.000112	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024281	0.023613	1.2360
UAE	Dirham	0.279978	0.272279	14.2524
Korea	Won	0.000861	0.000837	0.0438
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.972500	50.9055

STOCK MARKET

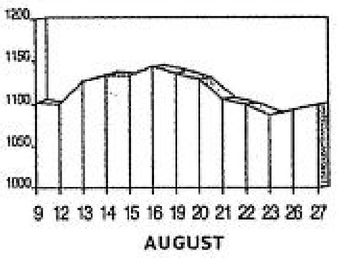
Stocks end higher on firmer peso

STOCKS, led by beer giant San Miguel, edged up for the second straight session yesterday as market sentiment improved with the strengthening of the local currency.

"The peso recovered and that helped market sentiment. That's enough incentive for the day given the lack of fresh news," said Henry Ong, KGI Securities vice

STOCKS/ B6

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PESO hit a four-day high of 51.99 to a dollar in midday trading yesterday as it tested the key psychological 52:$1 level, retracing from near nine-month lows of 52.41 on Monday.

The local currency recovered 13 centavos and closed at P52.10 to a dollar yesterday, buoyed by improvements in regional currencies and diminished speculation among local players following pronouncements from the central bank that the local currency should improve to 51 next month.

Dealers said the absence of corporate dollar demand, spotted in recent sessions, rumors of central bank dollar sales late on Monday and oversold conditions in peso prompted players to liquidate long dollar positions.

Firmer tone in yen and other regionals also aided peso sentiment, the dealers said.

Dealers said a breach of P51.90 to $1 could lead to sharp peso gains, though wariness over economic outlook could keep gains limited.

Traders said the foreign exchange market took its cue from the recovery of Asian currencies particularly the Japanese yen, which closed 0.7 percent better yesterday while the Thai baht recovered 0.25 percent.

Others like the Singapore dollar, Korean won and the Indonesian rupiah also gained 0.33 percent, 0.46 percent and 0.22 percent against the previous day's rates.

"The import season is about to end so the speculation on the market that the peso would depreciate further somehow decreased especially after the statement from the central bank that by next month it should go back to 51," a trader from a foreign bank said.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that the peso would bounce back to 51 by September as the country's exports improve. The import season of July and August is about to end and the demand for dollars in the market would decline.

As the peso gained strength, however, prospects of domestic interest rates dimmed as the market expected the 91-day treasury bill yield to break past the 5-percent level next week.

The Bureau of Treasury had acknowledged the possibility that the benchmark rate could rise next week.

"The market is moving and rates could range from five to 5.5 percent in the coming auction," said National Treasurer Sergio Edeza.

The 91-day treasuries averaged 4.978 percent during the Aug. 19 auction, up 10 basis points from the rate two weeks ago.

A trader from a foreign bank pointed out that Edeza's unexpected forecast on the direction of the bellwether rate could be a hint to the market that the Treasury would not allow rates to move beyond this range after having factored in the impact of the July deficit announcement last week.

The government had reported that the deficit as of July rose to

PESO/ B2

Centennial Expo pushed as SM mall site

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ONE of the country's leading urban planners, Palafox Associates, is urging the Clark Development Corp. board to consider both the short- and long-term goals of the Clark Special Economic Zone in choosing the best site for the P500-million shopping mall project of the Shoemart group.

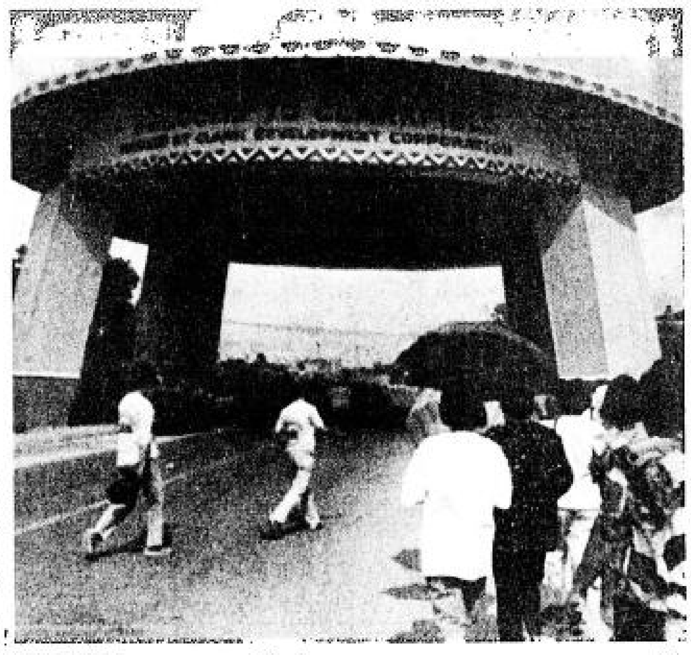
Principal architect Felino "Jun" Palafox said CDC should "balance the short-term, opportunistic goals with long-term, strategic objectives" in developing the ecozone.

Palafox, who is drawing up the Clark ecozone master plan together with American consultant Louis Berger, refused to comment on whether he supported the plan to put up an SM mall near the Salakot entrance of Clark which has been endorsed by the CDC management. Palafox is one of the leading mall builders in the country with the SM and Robinsons malls in Pampanga part of his handiwork.

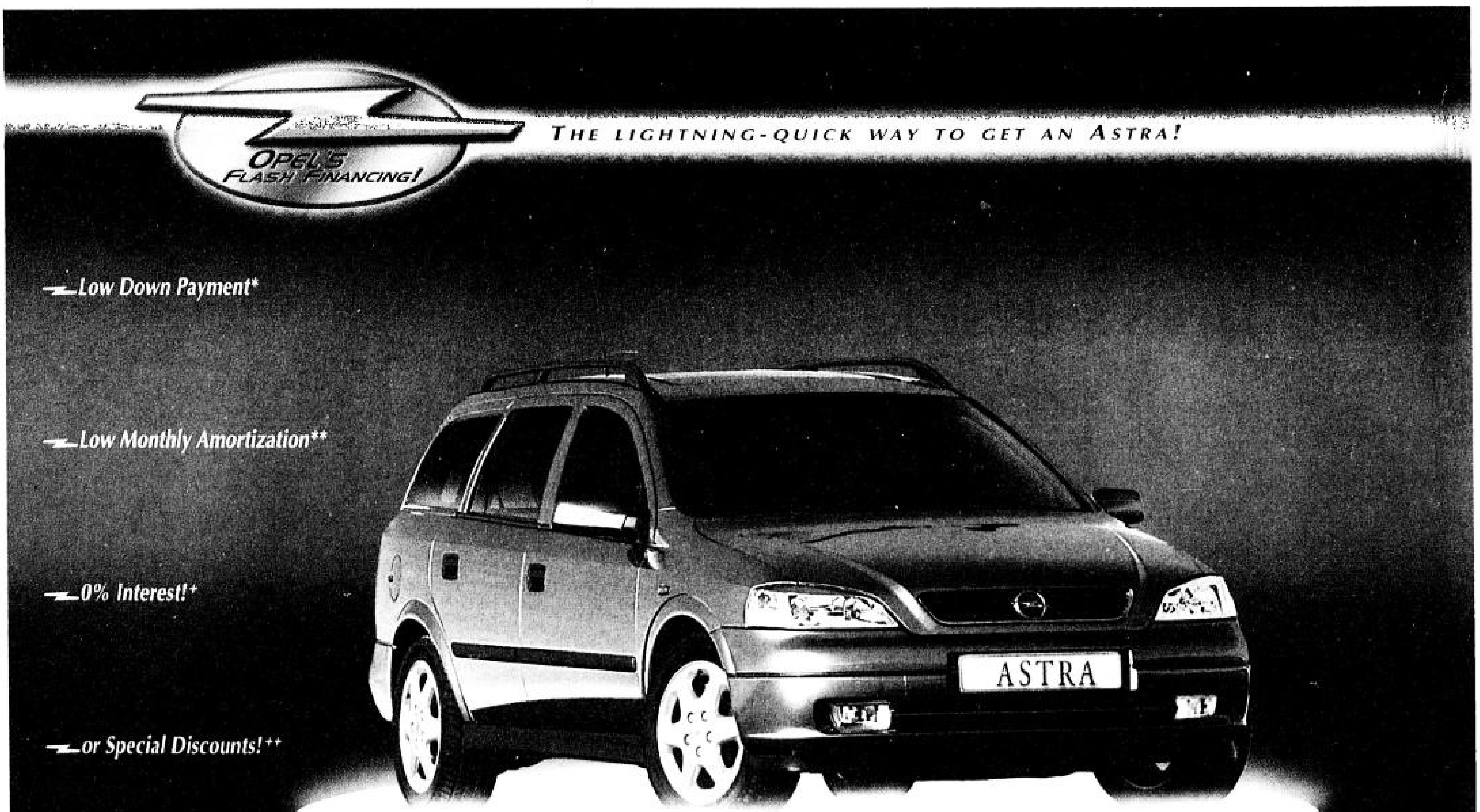
Bases Conversion Development Authority president and CEO Rufo Colayco has criticized the CDC management for endorsing the construction of an SM mall at the Salakot entrance because it would clog up the Mabalacat-Angeles section of the MacArthur Highway (one of the country's traffic-prone, main arteries) and preempt the design of the planned multi-modal logistics center east of the runway.

Colayco, who invited SM in 1999 to invest in Clark during his stint as CDC president, said an SM mall at the Salakot gate would compromise the layout of the critical access facilities to the airport from the Subic seaport, Metro Manila (including North

EXPO/ B6



SALAKOT entrance to Clark ecozone.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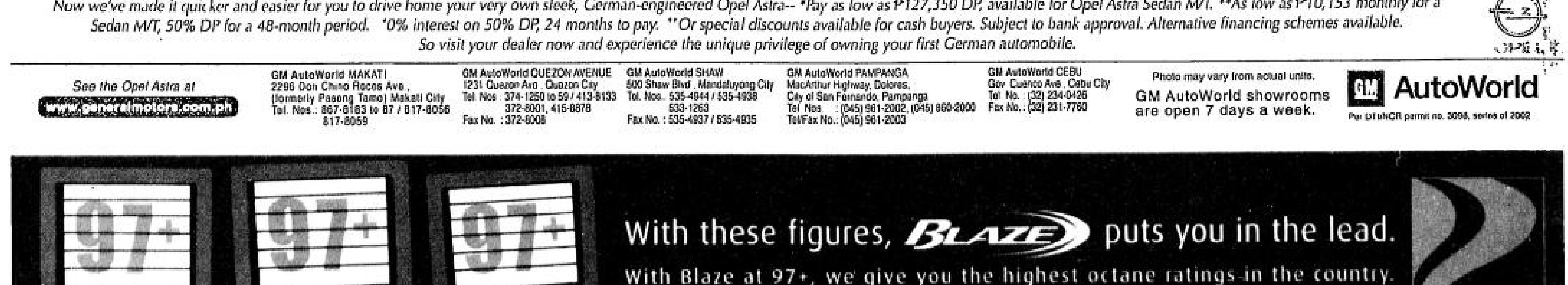
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Bouncing good news

THE PHILIPPINES has quietly become the leading manufacturer of Dunlop Slazenger-brand tennis balls. And by next year, the Mariveles plant will become THE undisputed tennis ball town, becoming the lone supplier of Dunlop Slazenger balls worldwide.

According to the grapevine, the Mariveles plant is now test-running a whole new line of machinery that came from a shuttered UK plant, which had been dismantled and shipped lock-stock-and-barrel to the Philippines.

Even the token manufacturing in Germany and Indonesia will be closed down later this year, and their operations shifted to the Philippines, where, apparently, operations and turnaround time have become the worldwide model as far as the Dunlop Slazenger empire is concerned.

The tennis boom has even spilled over to the local manufacturer of PET canisters, those Pringle-like cans that hold three or four tennis balls. The lone supplier, JIT Container Inc., is running three shifts a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, and still expanding.

By January, JIT Container, owned by Gabriel Jacinto, will be doubling his 25,000 canisters daily production to 50,000.

Some of you may be familiar with Jacinto. Friday nights, the bespectacled businessman picks up the guitar to play rock and roll with his cousin, Ramon "RJ" Jacinto, at the Edsa Shangri-La hotel.

Pepsi's new twist

PEPSI, the other American cola drink, has finally found a way to make its local franchisee profitable and be able to compete with Coke on this side of the globe once again.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

According to the new local Pepsi chair, Felipe Yap, the solution was simple. The Purchase, New York-headquarters was finally convinced by the Pinoys to slash significantly the cost of syrups imported by the local Pepsi.

As a result of this singular act, Pepsi Philippines is in the black for the first time since the Lorenzo years.

Its latest offering, Pepsi Twist, is proving to be a local hit in that the local bottler always runs out of bottles because of the growing demand, according to Yap.

Pepsi's market share has been hovering between 15 and 17 percent through the years, with the majority cornered by Coke and Cosmos.

Still, it is unlikely that the local market will see a return of the '70s- and '80s-style cola war. Both Yap and Pepsi president Micky Yong sit in the board of Cyber Bay Corp. alongside chair Ramon Ang, who happens to also be the vice chair of San Miguel Corp., the local bottler of Coke.

Tiresome problem

AFTER Firestone, Ford has another tire problem involving its hot-selling SUVs.

If you own a 2000 or 2001 Expedition or Lincoln Navigator and it is running on 17-inch ContriTrac AW or General Grabber AW tires, better contact your local Ford dealer.

The tire maker, Continental AG, acknowledged that these tires are suspected of construction defects that could lead to blowouts and vehicles rollovers.

The recall involves 596,000 suspected tires, as against the millions recalled by Firestone involving Ford Explorers.

Burning solution

CONSTRUCTION magnate Felipe "Philip" Cruz Jr. may soon become known as the charcoal king.

Cruz has to lay off more than 4,000 workers because of the real estate slowdown, keeping only 800 workers to keep ongoing projects.

In the meantime, Cruz has begun market-testing a smokeless, odorless, slow-burning charcoal that he developed in his Mindanao mine. He plans to sell it at P15/kilo, as against the P10/kilo usual variety that burns away in one-fourth the time.

Unlike wood, this briquette is coal-based.

Heard through the grapevine

A GROUP of US federal aviation experts is in town assessing the security measures of the domestic airports.

The initial feedback is that the provincial airports that feed into the Ninoy Aquino International Airport fail to meet the new security standards imposed post-Sept. 11 by Washington.

(Cocktales will take a three-week break beginning today. Despite his absence, he may still be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Lucio Tan rules out merger between Allied Bank, PNB

By Clarissa S. Batino and Elena R. Torrijos

TAIPAN Lucio Tan has ruled out a merger between Philippine National Bank and Allied Bank that analysts were anticipating to happen after the government said it would divest its shares in PNB within the next three to five years.

Tan owns half of PNB and is majority owner of Allied Bank.

The taipan stressed that, as agreed, he would sell his shares in PNB together with the government once the country's sixth-largest bank has recovered and returned to profitability.

"No merger. It's more expensive to merge. Underwriting is better," Tan said in reply to questions whether he was planning to merge PNB and Allied.

PNB is the country's sixth largest with assets of P189.609 billion as of the second quarter, up 2.8 percent from P184.697 billion the previous three-month period. But its non-performing loans also rose to 52 percent of total portfolio during the second quarter to P50.885 billion.

Allied Bank, as of the second quarter, ranked ninth with assets of P98.293 billion or 3 percent up from P95.462 billion. But unlike PNB, Allied's bad loans worth P9.23 billion only accounted for 19.71 percent of its total loans.

Merging PNB and Allied would create the third biggest lender with assets of P287.902 billion, next to Metrobank's P379.302 billion and Bank of the Philippine Island's P331.455 billion. Third-largest Citibank's assets stood at P265 billion as of the second quarter.

Tan said that at a good price, he would be selling his shares in PNB. The government had agreed to offer first to the Tan group a 67-percent block in PNB before it would be sold to other investors. The joint sale agreement was signed last Aug. 1.

Tan and the government had agreed to sell jointly a 67-percent block from the outstanding shares of PNB within the next three to five years, fulfilling one of the items provided in the debt-to-equity accord signed last May.

The two parties also forged an escrow agreement and assigned JP Morgan Chase as the custodian of the number of shares equivalent to the 67 percent block. The two new agreements would lapse after five years.

Meantime, Allied Bank will likely postpone to 2003 its plan to raise $50 million in tier-2 capital.

In a briefing with reporters Monday evening, Allied Bank president Reynaldo Maclang said the bank was in no hurry to raise the tier-2 capital because proceeds from the issue may not be put to good use given the prevailing weak demand for loans.

The bank's loan portfolio has in fact shrunk slightly compared to its size last year.

Maclang also pointed out that the bank's capital adequacy ratio was at 15 percent.

Nevertheless, Maclang said that Allied Bank was already talking separately to five investment banks that could be the bank's financial adviser for the tier-2 capital issue.

The tier-2 capital would come in the form of subordinated debt with a maturity of 10 years.

Allied Bank has projected this year a net income of P1 billion, the same as last year's.

Maclang said that the bank hoped to do better in the second quarter by introducing new loan products geared to the consumer market. The typical consumer loan products are mortgage loans, auto and personal loans. He said Allied would introduce one or two new products in a month's time.

The bank wanted to target more of the middle market but demand from this segment has not picked up, he noted.

Maclang also said that the bank was also considering disposing some of its bad assets, including acquired assets and non-performing loans, through a special purpose asset vehicle or asset management company but this plan would be based on the passage of the final version of the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle bill now pending in Congress.

Jardine Davies sells stake in sugar firm

By Doris C. Dumlao

INVESTMENT holding firm Jardine Davies Inc. has divested its 20.84-percent stake in publicly listed sugar milling firm Bogo-Medellin Milling Co. Inc. (BMM) in order to consolidate its sugar interests.

JDI senior vice president Bi Yong Chungunco yesterday told the Philippine Stock Exchange that JDI had agreed to transfer on Monday its 1.25 million shares in BMM to "certain existing shareholders."

"JDI would like to focus on the sugar business of its subsidiary Hawaiian-Philippine Co.," Chungunco said.

The investment in BMM constituted less than one percent of the consolidated net worth of JDI, the official said.

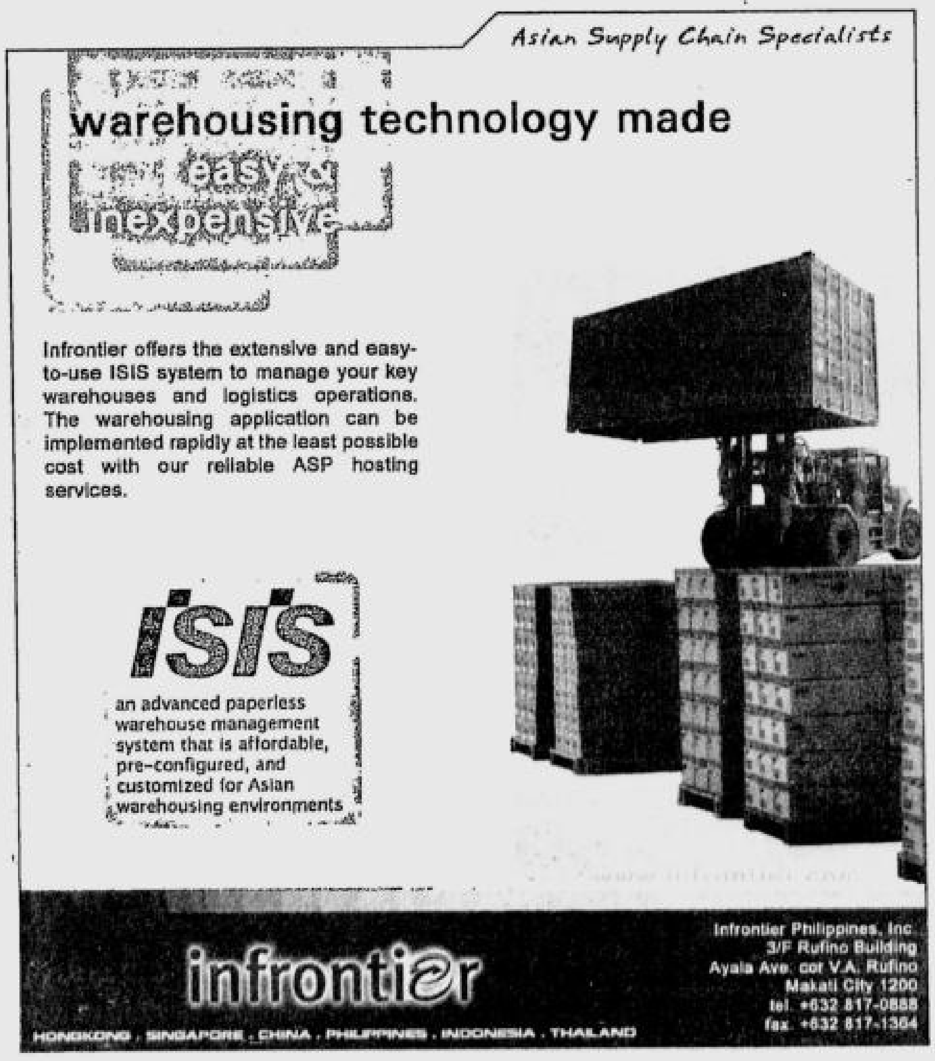
The other substantial shareholders of BMM aside from JDI were: Lauren Henson (21.21 percent); Harry Hanson (19.36 percent); Cede & Co. (5.74 percent), and Young Men's Christian Association (1.96 percent). The disclosure did not specify which of these investors took up the stake divested by JDI.

BMM was incorporated in 1928 to engage in the milling of sugar with molasses as its by-product. Its sugar central is capable of milling more than 3,000 tons and is serving an area of about 7,000 hectares of sugarcane farms principally from the adjacent municipalities of Bogo and Medellin in Cebu. The company supplies sugar primarily to the local market.

As a result of the divestment, JDI gave up its three board seats in BMM.

JDI director Timothy Benett resigned as a director of BMM while Chungunco and Marise Marquez respectively quit as corporate secretary and assistant corporate secretary.

Incorporated in 1946, JDI is one of the most diversified conglomerates in the country, with interests in agribusiness, consumer finance, building and industrial materials and middle-income housing.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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, August 27, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	18	17.5	17.75	742,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	42.5	42	42	190,400
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	60
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28	28	27.5	27.5	845,400
First E-Bank Corp.	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.24	40,000
Global Business Bank Inc.	64	64	64	64	200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34.5	34	34.5	91,700
Philippine National Bank	31	32	31	32	4,500
Security Bank Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	4,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	300,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1190	1190	1190	1190	980
Sun Life Financial Serv.	935	940	935	940	1,920
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	5,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.54	940,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	485	485	485	485	500
Ipeople Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	60,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	1,100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.026	0.027	0.025	0.026	9,600,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	20,000
Piltel	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	3,290,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	290	290	290	290	85,160
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	13,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	71,000
Manila Electric Co. B	28.5	29	28.5	29	30,600
Petron Corp.	1.64	1.68	1.64	1.68	696,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.76	1.78	1.78	1.76	150,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.89	0.89	0.88	0.88	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	4,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.42	2.4	2.4	1,533,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.59	0.59	740,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	15,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	18,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.5	215,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	9,500
RFM Corp.	0.77	0.78	0.77	0.78	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48.5	49	48.5	49	685,100
San Miguel Corp. B	52	53	52	53	40,800
Universal Robina Corp.	4	4	3.9	3.9	133,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	87,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	589,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	25,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	9,030,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	100,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	12	12.5	12	12.5	447,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.0725	0.0725	500,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	30,000
Ionics Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	20,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	59,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	590,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.05	0.085	0.05	0.085	8,000,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	3,000,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.235	430,000
Prima Orion Phils. Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	1,000,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	6,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	2,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.33	0.42	0.33	0.38	3,240,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	1,100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21.5	21.5	21.25	21.5	441,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	3,586,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.13	1,240,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	280,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.1	1.04	1.1	4,516,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.86	1.94	1.86	1.94	851,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.24	0.24	910,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.15	0.15	180,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	300,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.037	0.043	0.037	0.043	800,000
SM Development Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	14,609,000
MINING					
Benguet Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	20,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	4,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.32	1,080,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	1,040,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0024	0.0024	95,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	3,500,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,224,060	50,974,075.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	86,813,560	99,511,780.00
PRO	27,292,000	108,828,990.00
Mining	26,170,000	786,400.00
OIL	99,510,000	272,100.00
GRAND TOTALS:	242,009,620	260,373,345.00
AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	430.03	UP 0.87
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,520.48	UP 16.12
PRO	504.77	DOWN 5.90
Mining	1,135.61	UP 9.68
OIL	1.33	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	635.96	UP 3.26
Composite	1,098.91	UP 6.05

NO. OF ADVANCES: 27; NO. OF DECLINES: 16; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 40;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 83; NO. OF TRADES: 1,225

DISCLOSURES

WISE Holdings Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Oct. 8 to Dec. 9 since its financial statements could not be finalized by the end of August due to the ongoing reorganization in the company.

* * *

IVANTAGE Corp. said that William Chua has stepped down as chair of the executive committee. Designated to replace him was Juan Chua.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Cyber Bay Corp.** were Ramon Ang, Micky Yong, Yuen Po Seng, David Go, Felipe Yap, Victor Say, Mario Surio, Peter Suchianco, Reynaldo Arcilla, Emmanuel Sy, Pramchai Kamasuta, Pathai Ghakombundit, Juanito Uy, Louis Coaon and Ray Espinosa.

* * *

RECORD date for **Fil-Estate Corp.**'s Sept. 30 annual stockholders' meeting shall be on Sept. 9.

* * *

PAYMENT date for **Filinvest Land Inc.**'s 85-percent stock dividend for shareholders of record as of Aug. 27 shall be on Sept. 10.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Racing Club Inc. has declared a 17-percent stock dividend in favor of shareholders of record as of Aug. 5.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Peso rallies; T-bill rate seen rising

From page B1

P133 billion against a full-year target of P130 billion. With a week to digest the report, the fixed-income market is expected to push treasury bill rates aggressively on Monday, particularly the benchmark 91-day yield.

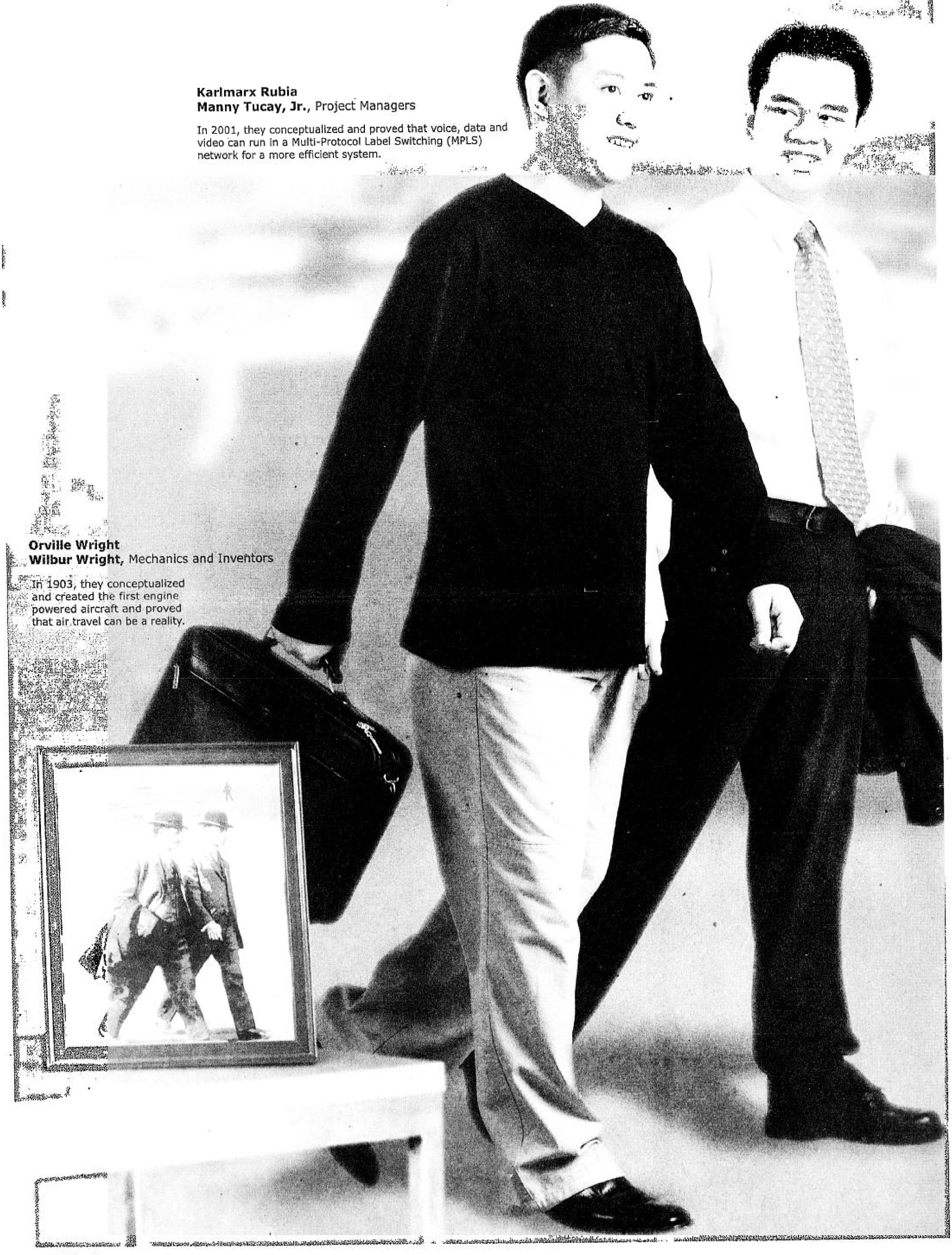
Yesterday, the Treasury allowed the rate of the two-year bonds to go up to 9.439 percent after it raised P3 billion from the banks.

Edeza insisted that contrary to market perceptions, the government still has P39 billion in unrestricted cash, a level that was virtually unchanged for a month. The government's strong cash position, he said, would allow it to keep domestic interest rates modest.

The treasurer said the government would raise another P7 billion from the issuance of dollar-linked peso instruments in the middle of September even as market players pointed out that the government should have floated the bonds last week when the peso was more volatile.

These unique debt papers offer investors two ways to earn. One is through a coupon rate that offers a relatively low yield because it would be comparable to prevailing rates of Philippine dollar-denominated bonds.

The other is a form of a hedge against a volatile local currency by allowing the investor who could be bearish on the peso to be paid the principal amount depending on the peso-dollar exchange rate at the time of maturity



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Manny Tucay, Jr., Project Managers

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Wilbur Wright, Mechanics and Inventors

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GMA asks Congress to approve SPAV, Transco bills before Sept. 7

By Carlito Pablo, Rocky Nazareno and Elena R. Torrijos

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday urged leaders of Congress to pass two priority economic measures—the Transmission Corp. (Transco) franchise bill and the special purpose asset vehicle (SPAV) measure—before Congress goes on recess on Sept. 7.

Ms Macapagal made the appeal during the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council meeting held in Malacañang.

"This is to counter the currency and financial pressure arising from the turmoil in Brazil and Argentina and the budget deficit of the national government," the President said in an official Palace statement.

The SPAV bill or Senate Bill No. 2116 seeks to provide incentives to asset management companies that will buy the bad loans and assets of local banks and other financial institutions.

The President's call came as prospects of getting the SPAV bill approved before Sept. 7 seemed to be getting dimmer.

Going into the last week of Congress before it goes on recess, debates over the controversial provisions of the bill have just started to heat up.

Even Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda-Leviste conceded that "there is little chance we could pass the bill (by Sept. 6). But we will still try . . . best efforts."

Last Monday night, opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson engaged the Senate committee on ways and means chair Ralph Recto in a lengthy and heated debate over Section 13 of the bill.

The bone of contention was a provision that will allow "the original borrower or owner to participate in the public bidding (of the foreclosed property or loans) with all the tax exemptions and fee privileges."

Lacson noted that since the local banks would be disposing of their non-performing assets at a discount, this (the section) would, in effect, allow the delinquent borrowers to reacquire their assets at a lower price.

"I find it illogical that a borrower will be allowed to bid for a property he or she had already defaulted on and to reacquire the property at a discount and free of tax," Lacson said.

On the Transco bill, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye quoted Negros Occidental Rep. Julio Ledesma IV as saying that the passage of the Transco bill would result in earnings of P6 billion for the cash-strapped government through the privatization of power transmission lines.

"The objective is to privatize transmission lines, which we know is a monopoly of the government," Bunye said.

Bunye also said that the measure would result to the further reduction of purchased power adjustment (PPA) cost, which is being blamed for the high electricity rates.

Bunye noted that the Transco bill was now the subject of interpellation at the House and the same would be forwarded to the Senate after its third reading.

Bunye noted that Speaker Jose de Venecia had convened two separate executive sessions among administration and opposition congressmen to ensure the passage of the Transco bill.

"They (congressmen) are prepared to really act at least on Transco," Bunye said.

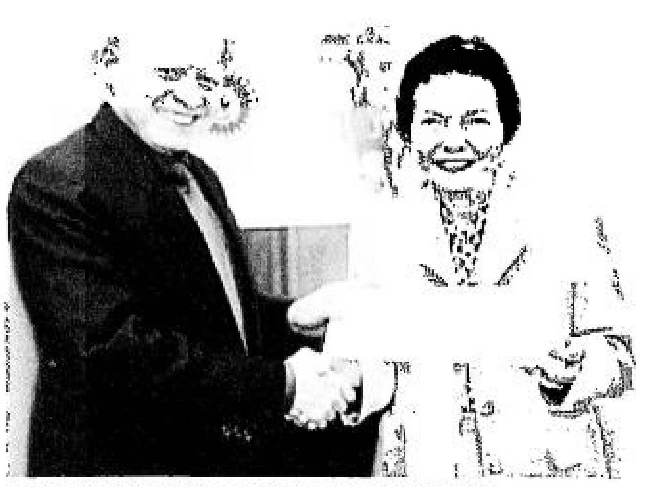
The SPAV measure, on the other hand, seeks to address the problem of non-performing loans of banks that is currently estimated at 19 percent of the sector's loan portfolio, Bunye said.

The bill has been passed on the third reading by the House and is currently pending before the Senate.

"The President hopes that both bills will be passed before the Sept. 7 break of Congress," Bunye said.

The influential Bankers Association of the Philippines, for its part, has asked the Senate to revise certain provisions of the SPAV bill that, in their present form, could even undermine the health of the banking industry.

In a position paper submitted Monday on Senate Bill No. 2116, the BAP noted that Sections 13 and 14 of the bill would encourage more borrowers to default on their loans and, at the same time, would drive away investors.



DONATION FOR BASILAN CHILDREN

Philam Foundation chair Jose L. Cuisia recently presented a check of over P1 million, generated through the foundation's Aid for Basilan Children (ABC) Fund Drive, to Philippine Business for Social Progress president Ma. Luisa Perez Rubio. The funds, which came from public donations and from employees and officers of the Philam Group of Companies, will be used to purchase uniforms, books, school supplies, and other instructional materials for more than 500 schoolchildren of Lamitan Central Elementary School in Basilan.

BTr says gov't has enough cash to fund deficit

THE PHILIPPINES still has ample cash to help fund its fiscal deficit and would keep capping rate increases at its regular debt auctions, National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said on Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters after the auction of reissued two-year T-bonds, Edeza said the government currently had "free cash" of P38.6 billion, little changed from July's P40.2 billion.

Free cash refers to the overall cash surplus of the government.

At the auction, the average rate rose to 9.439 percent from the previous 8.831 percent.

Edeza said the uptick was acceptable given rate movements in the secondary market for government securities and it would not put undue strain on Treasury's resources.

"The rates were reasonable, in line with secondary rates, and the volume was there and two-year funding is still cheap at these levels," he said.

Rates for government paper fell sharply earlier in the year because of heavy market liquidity and few alternative investment options, but they have steadily moved up in recent months because of concerns about the growing fiscal deficit.

With banks continuing to hold ample cash, Edeza said he was not expecting upward pressure on bids at next week's T-bill auction.

"I do not think rates will move up significantly given that the (ample) liquidity is there as reflected at this auction," he said.

Offers amounting to P11 billion were made for the P3 billion worth of two-year bonds put on the auction block on Tuesday.

Treasury boosted its own cash position in June, raising nearly P63 billion from the sale of Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs) to the public.

The funds from this sale were on top of money raised from the regular auction program, which is used to finance the country's budget deficit.

In the first seven months of the year the fiscal shortfall grew to P133.1 billion, breaching the full-year deficit target of P130 billion.

Despite widespread market expectations for a sizeable fiscal blowout by the end of the year, the government has maintained it can rein in the shortfall to the target amount through a mixture of increased revenue collections and spending curbs. *Reuters*

GOINGS-ON

Young environmental envoy

SEVEN students from Luzon, all semi-finalists in the Search for Bayer Young Environmental Envoys, came to Manila recently to vie for the title. Three budding environmentalists were conferred the title at the Heritage Hotel, namely Kelvin Jun Faderan of UP Los Baños, Jennifer Orbeso of Universidad de Santa Isabel in Naga, and Maria Concepcion Hernandez of De La Salle Lipa.

The other semi-finalists were Bernard Albano of Mariano Marcos State University in Ilocos Norte, Maria Licel Balico of Saint Mary's University in Nueva Vizcaya, Shayne Calleja of the Universidad de Santa Isabel in Naga, and Lea Foy-os of Benguet State University.

Congress of association executives

THE 80TH World Congress of Association Executives Association will be held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) on Feb. 22-25, 2004, PICC general manager Aracell E. Villanueva announced.

A delegation from the Philippines has attended the 7th World Congress in Cancun, Mexico, on Aug. 22-25 this year to promote attendance to the Manila congress. Members of the delegation were Villanueva and Monetary Board member and PICC adviser Juan Quintos Jr.

Villanueva said: "It is not just an honor to host the next world congress, but an opportunity for us to promote the Philippines to its international membership who are the decision makers in their respective associations and a potential market for future international off-shore meetings."

The World Congress of Association Executives is an event that brings together executives of all types of membership-based organizations, including trade and professional associations around the world.

This will also be another opportunity for the PICC to promote its facilities and services.

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MTRCB RATING PG 13

Gov't, ADB agree on $750-M bond flotation for Napocor

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT and the Asian Development Bank has agreed to float a total of $750 million in bonds in October to cover part of National Power Corp.'s financial requirements for 2002.

Edgardo del Fonso, president of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., said yesterday that roadshows were scheduled in mid-October for a 20-year dollar-denominated issue worth $500 million and an 18-year yen-denominated issue equivalent to $250 million.

Del Fonso said that Psalm, the Department of Finance and the ADB has tapped Salomon Smith Barney as lead manager and global coordinator for the $500-million 20-year bond issue.

"Nomura Securities has been appointed as lead manager for the yen-denominated ($250-million) tranche," Del Fonso said in a telephone interview.

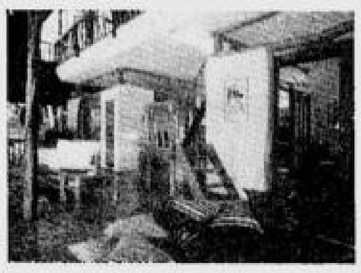
He said both issues would be covered by a partial credit guarantee from the ADB and by a government guarantee.

Napocor has raised $750 million early this year but still needs about $1.1 billion to fully cover this year's expenses.

"Any additional funding needed by Psalm or Napocor for the (rest) of the year shall be covered through interim arrangements with the DOF," the Psalm chief said.

Napocor's funding needs for 2002 was originally pegged at $1.5 billion, but this went up due to a program reducing the firm's power purchased adjustment cost by an average of 85 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

Napocor collects the PPA to cover for electricity it buys from independent power producers (IPPs).



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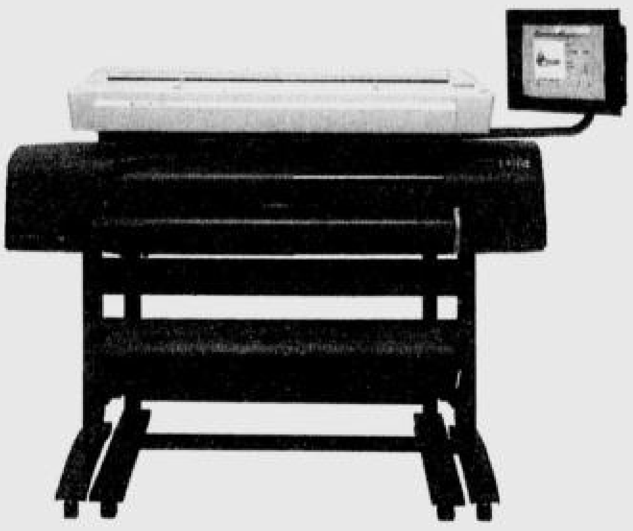

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Designjet 800 24"	14,000.00
Designjet 800 42"	17,000.00
Designjet 800PS 24"	18,000.00
Designjet 800PS 42"	21,000.00
Designjet 5000 42"	52,000.00
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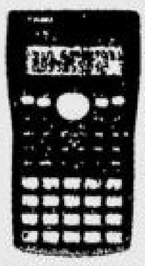

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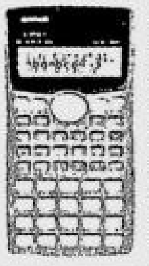

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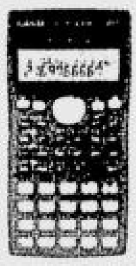

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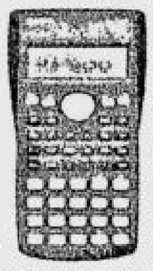

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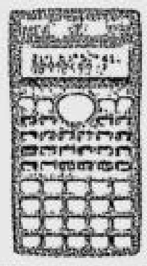

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Industrial output up 5.6%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S manufacturing output expanded for the third straight month by 5.9 percent in June from a year ago. The growth rate was lower than the 12.3 percent in May but it was still indicative of the positive contribution of the industrial sector to economic growth.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the growth in the volume of production index by key manufacturing industries was boosted by the double-digit surge in the output of footwear and wearing apparel (88.8 percent) and electrical machinery (53.1 percent).

Other sectors that also recorded double-digit production volume growth in June from a year ago were as follow: textile (27.4 percent); fabricated metals (19 percent); food (12.4 percent); non-metallic mineral products (10.8 percent), and wood/wood products (10.5 percent).

The sectors that recorded sharp contraction in production volume were as follow: furniture/fixtures (24.2 percent); petroleum products (19.1 percent) and, machinery excluding electrical (18.9 percent).

On a monthly basis, the volume of production index likewise rose by 2.6 percent.

Analysts said the slower growth in manufacturing volumes in June compared to the double-digit levels posted in April and May was still a welcome development compared to the sharp contractions seen last year.

"Although it shows a reduction in the growth momentum, the figures are still on track with the gross domestic product/gross national product growth," PCI Capital Corp. analyst Mike Ordinanza said.

For the second quarter of the year, the Philippines was expected to have chalked up a GDP growth of 3.8 percent due to the rebound in the industry sector as well as the resilience of the services sector.

GDP refers to the total amount of goods and services produced by the economy in a given year while GNP includes net factor income from abroad.

Ordinanza said that despite the perceived slowdown in manufacturing growth in June, the government's GDP growth target of 4-4.5 percent for the full year remained achievable.

"I just hope that the growth in the production volume of the manufacturing sector will be back to double digit levels in the third quarter," Ordinanza said.

Eagle Equities Inc. president Joseph Roxas said: "At least there are still sectors in the economy that are growing. The positive growth in manufacturing volume still bodes well for the economy this year."

Unilever may convert RP unit into trading company

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

DESPITE assuring Malacañang that it would stay put in the country, Anglo-Dutch consumer goods firm Unilever remained uncertain whether it would continue operating here as a manufacturer or as a mere trader.

In a press conference yesterday, Unilever global chair Antony Burgmans admitted that the Philippine unit could be turned to a trading arm depending on future business conditions.

But Unilever Philippines president Howard Belton said Unilever has no set plan for the next 10 years as it constantly reviews its operations every 12 months to respond to the ever-changing market conditions.

Belton said the Philippine factory was in competition with other Unilever factories in the production of food, personal care and household hygiene products at the least costs. Belton said Unilever's Filipino workforce knew that they had to be efficient to win businesses in Unilever.

One of the key factors that could sway the Anglo-Dutch giant to stay put here is the reduction of tariffs on its raw materials, particularly resins which are widely used for packaging.

Unilever is apparently concerned over recent lobbying efforts to raise the duty on resins, which is set to drop to 5 percent from 15 percent in 2003 under the Asean Free Trade Area.

Burgmans, who is in the country for Unilever Philippines' 75th anniversary, conveyed Unilever's concern over the delay in the tariff cuts on raw materials to President Macapagal-Arroyo Monday during their meeting in Malacañang on Monday.

Most of Unilever Philippines' staple products such as shampoo and toothpaste are already produced in other Asean countries like Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia. Unilever is still making detergent bars and deodorant sticks in the country.

Unilever is one of the few multinational corporations that have not relocated their manufacturing operations to other countries that provide lower labor costs, cheaper raw materials, and more efficient infrastructure.

Stocks

From page B1

president for sales.

The peso strengthened past the 52 to the dollar yesterday, backtracking from near nine-month lows of 52.41 on Monday.

But analysts said gains were capped as most players were sidelined ahead of the release of the second-quarter growth data tomorrow.

"The market is waiting for the GDP report and beyond it, investors are looking ahead to the third quarter corporate results," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

The Philippine main index ended 6.05 points or 0.55 percent higher at 1,098.91 points.

Value turnover improved to P260.56 million from a record low of P74.4 million on Monday.

Gainers outpaced losers 27 to 16 and there were 40 stocks unchanged.

"We expect the market to move sideways and trading volume to remain anemic until the GDP data are released," said Vistan, who saw the market's psychological support at 1,080 and resistance at 1,100. *Reuters*

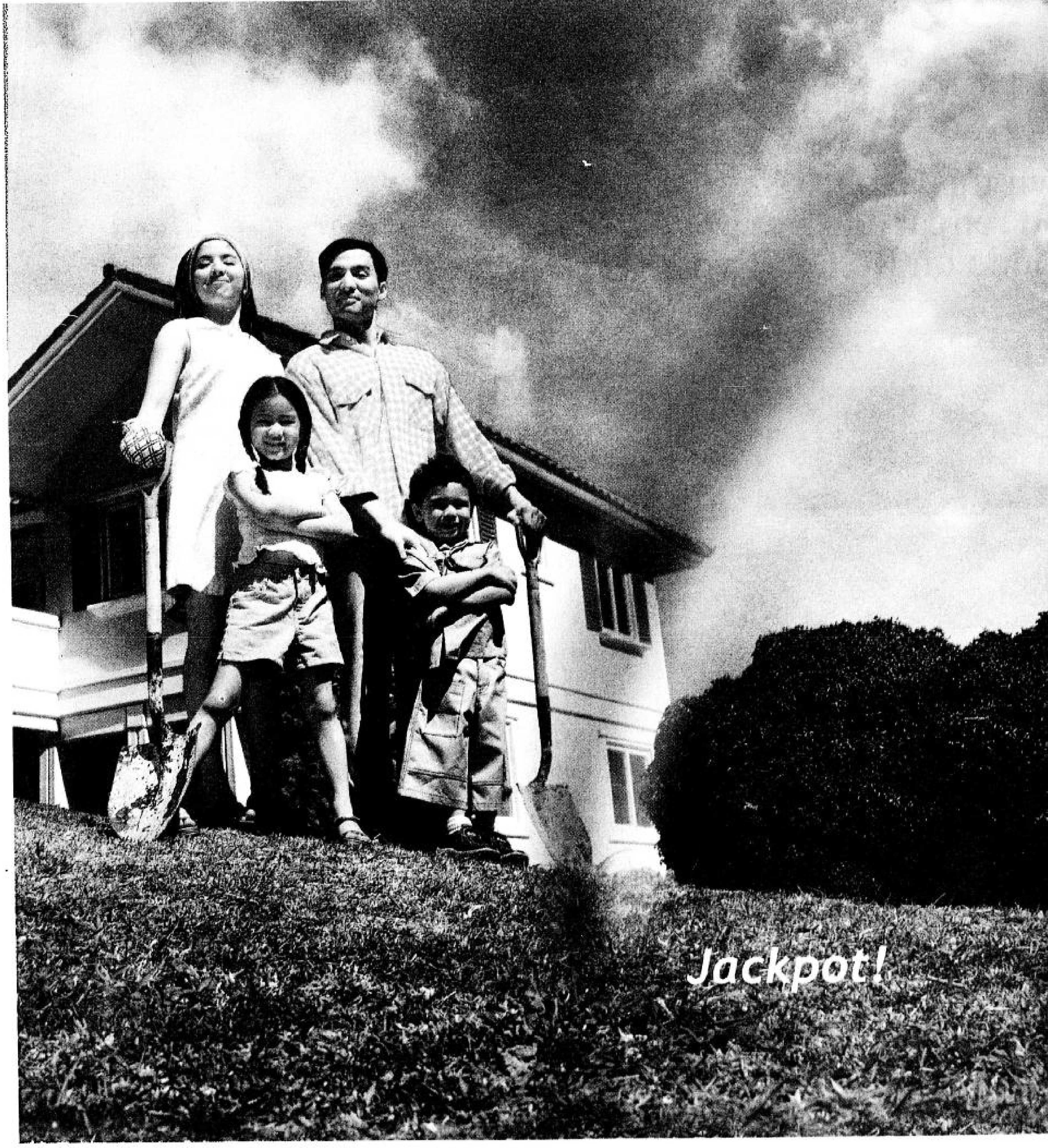
Expo

From page B1

Rail), North (Tarlac and Pangasinan), and East (Nueva Ecija).

Colayco has proposed that SM put up its mall in the decaying Centennial Expo by opening up the ecozone to public transport through the creation of a bypass loop to meet the retailer's need for access to public transport. "The presence of SM in the Expo would kick-start the redevelopment of this notorious white elephant and spur the development of the entire zone."

Pampanga local officials have likewise opposed the SM Mall in the Salakot entrance because it would affect the development of the airport into an international gateway.



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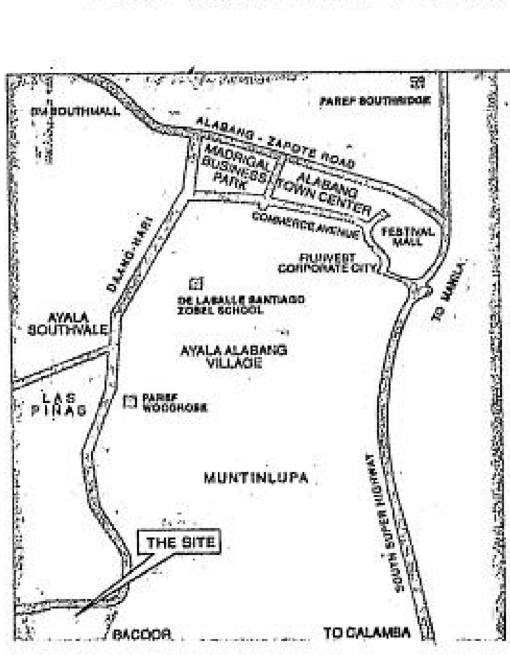

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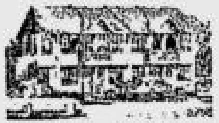

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CATALINO TAGAMA RASA was extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Notary Public Atty. Esperanza G. Aclan of Mabini, Batangas under Doc. No. 2927; Page No. 87; Book No. XXVI; Series of 2002.
PDI-Aug.28 Sept. 4&11. 2002

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that estate of late MANUEL C. MARINAO and LILIA M. MARIANO was extrajudicially settled by their heirs as per Doc No. 7; Page No. 3; Book III; Series of 2002 of Notary Public Virgilio Nicomedes of Makati.
PDI-Aug 28,Sept. 4&11,2002

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(PDI-Aug. 21, 28 & Sept. 4, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that effective August 23, 2002, MS. YOLANDA QUIÑONES ZULUETA, whose picture appears herein, is no longer authorized to transact sales, collections, order processing, disbursements, or any and all manner of business for and on behalf of PRIME INDEX PHILS., INC.

MS. YOLANDA QUIÑONES ZULUETA has abandoned her work on July 27, 2002 and up to the present time has been on absence without leave. Until her employment status is verified, her authority to transact on behalf of PRIME INDEX PHILS., INC. is hereby withdrawn.

Any transaction or contract entered into with Yolanda Q. Zulueta, in whatever form, purportedly on behalf of PRIME INDEX PHILS., INC. as of said date, is void and will not be honored by the company.

PRIME INDEX PHILS., INC.

(PDI--Aug. 28 & Sept. 1, 2002)

EMBASSY OF JAPAN

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING TOURIST AND VISITING RELATIVE VISAS

The new system will be introduced for the convenience of the applicants. Beginning 02 September 2002, individuals applying for TOURIST and VISITING RELATIVE VISAS may do so directly at the designated windows.

This change is only relevant to those individuals applying in Manila.

Accordingly, the DROP BOX SYSTEM will be TERMINATED on **30 August 2002.**

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Matthew 5:9

In loving memory of our conferer

FR. RUFUS HALLEY (POPONG)

on the First Anniversary of his death.

Fr. Rufus worked all of his life for peace and reconciliation between people, especially between people of different Faiths. His tragic death does not mean the end of that work. By supporting the peacemakers of today we keep his spirit alive. May his life continue to inspire all of us to work for peace and reconciliation between all people.

May we request all those whose lives he touched to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. May he rest in peace.

Masses offered.

TOMASITA "Chitang" MATA de LEON

January 20, 1913 - August 26, 2002

Our beloved mother joined our father **Dr. David M. de Leon**, in God's house on Monday, August 26, 2002.

Carminda & Teddy Regala - Karina & Tong Limcaoco, Teddyboy & Nannette Regala, Risa & Tonio Garcia, Pia & Desi Hebron.

Cesar & Bing de Leon - Mia & Pajee Aguilar, Annette & Mike Javier, Isa de Leon, Raul de Leon.

Cynthia & Mario de Leon - Sonny & Joy de Leon, Miguel de Leon, Ming & Dianne de Leon; Marc & Aileen de Leon;

Normando de Leon

Following her cremation on Tuesday, her remains will stay at the Loyola Chapel until noon of Thursday, August 29. The Necrological Service will be held at the Union Church of Manila, Rada cor. Legazpi Sts., on Thursday, August 29 at 5:30 p.m.

So dearly missed, so lovingly remembered...

On the 10th **death anniversary** of our beloved

LUIS SARAYBA FERRER III
"Titot"

Former Vice Governor – Province of Cavite

Who died in the grace of our Lord on August 28, 1992

Masses will be offered **today** in the following Churches:

St. Francis of Assisi Church, Gen. Trias Cavite	6:00 a.m. (August 1–31)
Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Maragondon Cavite	5:30 a.m.
St. Augustine Church, Tanza Cavite	6:00 a.m.
Holy Rosary Church, Rosario Cavite	6:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Fatima Church, Binakayan Kawit Cavite	6:00 a.m.
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Kawit Cavite	6:00 a.m.
St. Jerome & St. Susana Parish, Alabang Muntinlupa City	6:00 a.m.
Immaculate Concepcion Church, Naic Cavite	6:30 a.m.
Sto. Niño de Cebu Parish, Biñan Laguna	7:30 a.m.
St. Jude Church, Trece Martires City	5:30 p.m.
St. James the Great Parish, Alabang Muntinlupa City	6:30 p.m.
San Vicente Ferrer Church, Manggahan Gen. Trias Cavite	7:00 p.m.

His loving wife **TERESING**, children **ONY & ANN, MIA & MIKE** and **JON-JON**, mother **TINANG**, sister **FLOR**, in-laws **BENNY & FLOR**, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious reader to remember **TITOT** in their prayers.

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INQUIRER OBITUARIES

Judge Francisco Donato Villanueva

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 24, 2002.

Beloved husband of **Nerissa**.
Devoted father of **Pido**, **Payan** and **Doodle**, **Jojo** and **Josefina**, **Baby**, **Dondi** and **Linda**.
Cherished grandfather of **Marc**, **Noah**, **Samantha**, **Ashley**, **Brittany**, **Kristine**, **Francesca**, **Francis**, **Dominique** and **Patrick**.
Loving brother of **Manoling**, **Delfin**, **Fe**, **Pansy**, **Cary**, **Nonit**, **Marit** and **Boy**.

The celebration of his life will be held at
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village,
from Tuesday, August 27th to Friday, August 30th.

Memorial Masses will be held at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church
on Saturday, August 31st at 11:00 AM and at
St. Lucy's Catholic Church in Narvacan, Ilocos Sur
on Tuesday, September 3rd at 10 AM.

He will be interred in California, U.S.A.

In Loving Memory

On the First Death Anniversary of Our Dearly Beloved Mommy

Merle Cuenca Gamalinda

(June 6, 1945 - August 28, 2001)

We wish to thank all our relatives and friends who offered their condolences and prayers during our time of grief.

Holy Mass will be celebrated today, August 28 (Wednesday), 12:30 noon, in Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Makati. Lunch will follow.

We request readers to remember Merle in their prayers.

Auditions for Luna opera 'Buwan'

MUSIC Theater Foundation of the Philippines opens the auditions for its forthcoming opera production "Buwan (Juan Luna)" scheduled for the arts month of Sentrong Pangkultura ng Pilipinas in February 2003.

The Neo-Romantic music composed by Ryan Cayabyab to the libretto and lyrics by Fides SC Asensio demands for flexible singer/actors with solid training in classical and pop styles. Of special interest is the search for a 7-year-old boy who will play Luling, Juan Luna's only child.

All interested parties must bring a selection piece from the most recent modern musical theater and one full-size photo on Aug. 31, from 2 to 9 p.m. at the CCP Multipurpose Hall. For more details, call 421-1898 and look for Myla or Gen.

"Buwan (Juan Luna)" will be directed by Alex Cortez and presented by the Opera Guild of the Philippines in cooperation with the Sentrong Pangkultura ng Pilipinas.

In Loving Memory

on his 9th Death Anniversary of

ROQUE "Tete" VAÑO ESCAÑO

of Malitbog, Leyte and Cagayan de Oro

Who died in the Grace of our Lord on August 28, 1993

Holy Masses will be offered today, Wednesday, August 28, 2002 at the following churches:

GREENHILLS MEMORIAL PARK	4:00 p.m.
SAN VICENTE FERRER, Cugman	6:00 a.m.
SAN ISIDRO LABRADOR, Gusa	6:00 a.m.
OUR LADY OF FATIMA, Gamaman-an	6:00 a.m.
SACRED HEART PARISH, Recto Avenue	5:30 p.m.
OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL, Carmen	6:00 a.m.
ST. AUGUSTINE CATHEDRAL	5:30 p.m.
SAN ANTONIO PARISH, Nasareth	6:00 a.m.
STO. NIÑO PARISH, Cogon	6:00 a.m.
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, Bulua	6:00 a.m.
CARMELITE MONASTERY CHAPEL	6:00 a.m.
CARMELITE MONASTERY, Malaybalay	6:00 a.m.

The **RIA (ROQUE, ISIDRO, ASUNCION) HOJAS ESCAÑO FOUNDATION, INC.** Board of Trustees, Officers, and Staff, relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember ROQUE in their prayers.

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INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
MAXIMO ROMERO	August 28	8:00 AM	Holy Gardens La Union Memorial Park San Fernando, La Union	Baracas, Naguilan, La Union
TEOFILA VARGAS	August 28	2:00 PM	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Taytay, Rizal	#3 Diamond St., Cresdaville Subd. Taytay, Rizal
ELODIA S. ESTRELLA	August 28	9:00 AM	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Taytay, Rizal	Karangalan Village, Cainta, Rizal
SEVERINO V. DE VERA SR.	August 28	1:00 PM	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Angono, Rizal	Baliwag, Bulacan
MARCELINO RODRIGUEZ	August 28	1:00 PM	Holy Gardens Greenhills Memorial Park	#39 Purok 2, Prinza Calamba City

ANNOUNCEMENT:

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December 19, 1944 - August 25, 2002

Her husband **Diosdado**; children **Lilly Ann** and **Alvin**; son-in-law **Inocencio Pineda**; and grand daughter **Shiela Ann**, with **Dindo Munsayac**; request the pious readers to say a prayer for the repose of her soul.

The body lies in state at Chapel 2-A Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be in Concepcion Shrine, Concepcion, Tarlac on August 30, 2002.

For further details, please contact tel. no. (0919) 270-1890.

Brewers tap Chinese beer giants for growth

HONG KONG—Facing saturated markets at home, foreign brewers are rushing to team up with Chinese beer giants in a trend that could intensify an already fierce battle in China's booming but glutted beer market.

Foreign brewers hope that their Chinese counterparts' vast sales networks and relatively low production costs can help them hitch a ride on the 6-percent-a-year growth of the world's second largest beer market.

In recent months, giants from the United States, Japan and Belgium have been eyeing or buying stakes in Chinese beer makers.

Striking partnerships with big local brewers mark a departure from the last wave of foreign investment in China's beer sector, which ultimately went flat.

In the 1990s, overseas brewers set up shop by themselves or with mostly small, local producers, only to see their start-ups drowned in a sea of dirt-cheap domestic beers.

"In light of the high growth nature of the Chinese beer market, foreign brewers are streaming into China again," said Tsingtao Brewery chair Li Guirong.

"But the current trend is that they will team up with big domestic brand names," he told reporters recently.

Chinese brewers are pursuing foreign capital and managerial know-how in efforts to remove a margin hangover and slake a thirst for funds resulting from a recent spree of acquisitions of smaller, often bankrupt breweries.

Tsingtao, China's biggest brewer, said last month it was in exclusive tie-up talks with Anheuser-Busch, the world's largest beer producer and maker of top-selling Budweiser beer.

Tsingtao has yet to disclose details of the possible deal, but it has said Anheuser-Busch will increase its stake in Tsingtao from the current 4.5 percent.

Tsingtao says the alliance is aimed at developing the Tsingtao brand, although analysts say Anheuser-Busch is eyeing development of its own brands over the long term in China.

"Anheuser-Busch would want to make use of Tsingtao's distribution network to sell their own beer. Maybe in the future they may use some of Tsingtao's facilities to brew Budweiser," said Grace Mak, an analyst at Merrill Lynch in Hong Kong.

Anheuser-Busch owns a brewery in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, where Budweiser for the China market is brewed.

Anheuser-Busch is part of a larger wave of foreign brewers pouring investment into China.

Earlier this year, Belgian giant Interbrew signed a preliminary deal to buy a stake in Zhujiang Beer Group, the dominant brewer in the wealthy southern province of Guangdong.

Japan's No. 2 brewer, Kirin Brewery Co. Ltd., which has stakes in Australian brewer Lion Nathan Ltd. and Philippine food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., is also reportedly mulling strategy in China.

Cutthroat market

A 640-ml bottle of Chinese beer often retails at just above one yuan ($0.12), cheaper than mineral water.

In the face of such competition, foreign brewers, including Carlsberg, Britain's Bass Plc and Foster's have shuttered, sold or scaled back their China operations.

Chinese brewers, meanwhile, have been on a shopping spree, taking advantage of publicly raised capital and Beijing's mandate to consolidate the industry.

The buy-out binge has created several domestic giants, including Tsingtao, Yanjing Brewery, CRE Beverage Ltd. and Harbin Brewery Group.

Harbin, China's fourth largest brewery, raised $37 million in a stock offer in Hong Kong in June to buy more breweries and repay debt. Harbin made acquisitions worth HK$230 million (US$29.5 million) last year, almost doubling its capacity to over one million tons.

Tsingtao, which produced 1.53 million tons of beer in the first six months of this year, has boosted its market share to above 12 percent from just 2 percent in 1996 after acquiring more than 40 breweries across the world's most populous country.

But its net margin fell to 1.77 percent last year, the lowest among 15 major Chinese and foreign brewers whose net margins averaged 10.21 percent, Sun Hung Kai Research said.

Yanjing, China's second largest brewer controlled by Beijing Enterprises, last week posted a 19-percent drop in its interim earnings mainly due to much higher advertising expenses. *Reuters*

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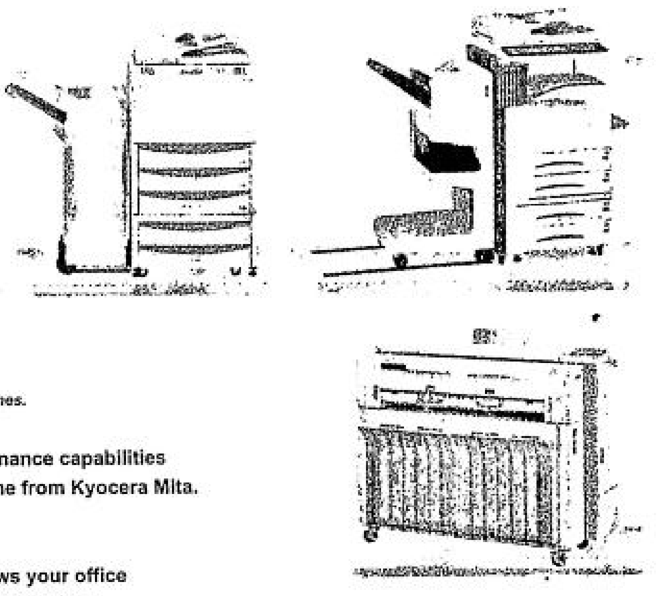

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KYOCERA mita

Weak economic growth in Japan stays on track for now—economists

TOKYO—A revival in exports is likely to have been enough to keep Japan's fragile economy growing marginally in the June quarter, according to economists.

Gross domestic product data set to be released on Friday is expected to show the world's second largest economy grew a slim 0.2 percent in the three months to June from the previous quarter, according to a consensus of analysts' forecasts.

Changes to the method of calculating Japan's notoriously volatile GDP data are expected to increase their credibility with the inclusion of more data measuring supply, such as activity in services industries.

As a result of the revamp, Japan's robust economic expansion of 1.4 percent in the three months to March is likely to be revised downwards sharply, underlining the weakness of the recovery from last year's deep recession, economists warned.

"Consumption (in January-March) will go down, which will affect the GDP figure quite a bit," said Lehman Brothers economist Matthew Poggi. "It will fall perhaps 0.6 percentage points to 0.8 percent."

In the latest quarter, growth was fueled by renewed demand for Japanese exports, especially from Asia, said Ryutaro Kono, chief economist at BNP Paribas Securities.

This, in turn, boosted industrial production and, as a result, the economy was likely to have grown 0.2 percent during the quarter, he said. Net exports alone would have contributed 0.5 percentage points to growth.

However, this would have been offset by slack domestic demand, which may have had a negative impact of 0.3 percentage points, he added.

Some major Japanese companies, such as consumer electronics giant Sony Corp., returned to profit during the quarter following a recovery in export orders and restructuring.

So far, the pick-up in production is yet to benefit the labor market and wages, a vital prerequisite to restoring consumer sentiment and consumption to levels needed for a broad-based recovery.

Nevertheless, consumer sentiment was able to hold firm during the period, said NLI Research Institute economist Taro Saito. *AFP*

Fed exec says US recovery to roll on

ST. LOUIS—Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis president William Poole said on Monday the US economic recovery was set to keep rolling, most likely without requiring further cuts in interest rates.

In comments that echoed other Fed officials' apparent reluctance to lower rates again, Poole said if economic growth in coming months was weaker than current forecasts, interest rates would stay low for longer as well.

Poole, who is not a voting member of the Fed's policy committee this year, underscored the long-term health of the US economy, including low inflation and rising productivity.

The St. Louis Fed chief cited economists' consensus forecasts of 2.5-percent growth in gross domestic product over the second half of the year but outlined possible alternative scenarios of stronger and weaker growth.

"In this latter case (of sub-par growth), short-term interest rates will remain low for a longer period than in the baseline case," Poole said.

"In this scenario, the market will bring down longer-term rates without Fed action because the market will expect that the Fed will retain its current low Fed funds rate target of 1.75 percent for a longer period," he told a tax administrators' conference here.

His comments echoed those by several other Fed officials last week that suggested policy-makers had no immediate inclination to lower the federal funds target rate, currently at a four-decade low.

The Fed left interest rates steady at its meeting on Aug. 13, but cautioned that economic risks had tilted toward weakness. *Reuters*

Malaysia to avoid tech war with China

PENANG, Malaysia—Malaysia, one of Asia's top emerging technology hubs, will avoid a price war against lower-cost China but build alliances with it instead, a senior regional official said on Tuesday.

"We will minimize head-on, all-out competition especially in labor-intensive, low cost products and services," Koh Tsu Koon, chief minister of northern Penang state, told a conference to mark the island's 30th anniversary as a technology site.

Penang is the center of Malaysia's electrical and electronics industry, which accounts for more than 60 percent of total exports.

Koh said the government would promote a "China plus One" (China and Penang) policy, where Penang would be geared up as a base for product development before mass production in Asia's most populous nation.

Malaysia's position in the regional technology market, dominated by Singapore and Hong Kong, has come under the spotlight as some large foreign firms warned about a possible migration to cheaper sites like Shanghai. *Reuters*

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2:00 Coffee with che
8:00 Dinner
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– quarterly

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Wal-Mart sales fall as consumers buy fewer back-to-school clothes

NEW YORK—Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's No. 1 retailer, said on Monday sales in the recent week hit the low end of its August same-store sales growth target, as warmer weather led shoppers to buy fewer back-to-school clothes.

It was the second time this month that Wal-Mart, which has come to be regarded as a barometer of US shopping patterns, reported sluggish weekly sales trends but still within its 4- to 6-percent same-store sales growth target for August.

Wal-Mart's latest announcement coincided with a move by women's apparel chain Bebe Stores Inc. to cut its same-store sales outlook for the current quarter.

The cut highlighted a growing push by shoppers to curb spending, as economic and Wall Street jitters remained paramount in their shopping decisions, analysts said.

Also reporting weaker selling patterns was Federated Department Stores Inc., owner of Macy's and Bloomingdale's chains, which said sales in the recent week trended below its expectations of a 1- to 3-percent drop in August same-store sales.

Analysts say a weaker back-to-school season now threatens to dash hopes that retailers may continue to reap the benefits of cost cutting and inventory control, steps that helped many stores improve their profits through the first half of 2002.

The back-to-school season is second in importance only to the holiday season for retailers, many of whom have seen their profitability crimped since late 2000, when the US economy began to falter.

Tierney Remick, global head of consumer markets at Korn/Ferry International, said consumers were asking themselves "whether the US economy is rebounding or not."

She added that "consumers are also realizing the end (to the economic worries and stock market jitters) is not immediately in sight and therefore have become more conservative."

David Schick, an analyst at SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, said 2002 could end up being another "bad" year for retailers if selling and consumer sentiment did not recover soon.

"We are seeing mixed signals from the consumer. While interest rates remain low, a lot of news from retailers says that business is slower," said Schick.

Schick added that the effect of lower interest rates in propping up US consumers now appeared to be waning. Around this time last year, many retailers had also been helped by tax rebate checks from the government.

The spending slowdown is hurting mainly items that consumers deemed as frivolous, particularly new clothes, analysts say. ***Reuters***

Battle for Hershey heats up

NEW YORK/ZURICH—Food conglomerate Nestlé SA has emerged as the favorite to win a multi-billion auction for American chocolate icon Hershey Foods Corp., though investors took a cautious approach to reports a firm offer was already on the table.

Analysts and bankers expect Nestlé, the world food and drinks leader, to bid aggressively for the famed maker of Hershey's Kisses to cure its weak position in the US confectionery market.

The Swiss company has been pressing forward with negotiations, sources familiar with the process said, despite the several political and legal hurdles, as well as fears the company might not be able to digest such a large deal without hurting its credit rating.

However, Hershey has also been hosting tours and providing financial information for other potential bidders, including Kraft Foods Inc. and Cadbury Schweppes Plc., sources said. The talks with all parties remain at an early stage and could fall apart at any time, sources said.

Nestlé shares dipped in Monday trading as investors feared it might pay too much for Hershey and have trouble absorbing Hershey after several big deals in the last year.

"People are worried that Nestlé is going to overpay and about the opposition to the deal. These are two unknowns that are weighing on the stock," said Bank Leu analyst Steven Frey.

Nestlé shares recovered from early lows to 325.50 Swiss francs in late trading, down 1.5 percent, underperforming its Swiss blue-chip peers and sector rivals.

The fall followed a report in USA Today, citing market sources, that Nestlé had bid between $82 and $85 a share for Hershey, a range at the upper end of some analysts' expectations.

Nestlé, the maker of Nescafe coffee, Friskies pet food and Kit Kat, which is also made under license in the United States by Hershey, refused to comment on the report, calling it a "market fantasy."

A banker close to Nestlé said the firm was aggressively pursuing Hershey, which he called a good strategic fit. "They tend to be aggressive bidders for good assets," he said.

However, industry analysts and bankers are also closely watching Kraft Foods. Kraft wasn't initially considered a favored bidder for Nabisco Holdings in 2000, but it ultimately won the company for $14.9 billion in a hotly contested auction.

Kraft, which makes Philadelphia cream cheese, Toblerone chocolate and Maxwell House Coffee, also refused to comment. ***Reuters***

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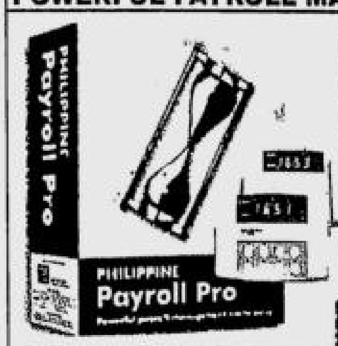

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Taiwan's Evergreen begins shipping out of Singapore

KUALA LUMPUR—Taiwan's largest shipping company, Evergreen Marine Corp., has begun shifting its regional hub from Singapore to Malaysia's Port of Tanjung Pelepas, according to officials at PTP.

"This week will see the phasing in of Evergreen services, including the long haul east and west bound China-Europe-Mediterranean, the far east Mediterranean and the west coast-Asia-Europe pendulum service," PTP said in a statement.

Taiwan's Evergreen in April inked a terminal service agreement to relocate from Singapore to PTP in southern Johor state.

Singapore Port operator PSA Corp. Ltd. also lost Danish global container line Maersk Sealand to PTP, last year.

Shipping companies say PTP offered quality service with a 30-percent discounted price to Singapore.

PTP said Evergreen's maiden call was made by the 152-meter Uni-Concord with a capacity of 1,038 20-foot equivalent units on Saturday. Another vessel, Ever Apex, arrived on Friday.

"Both services connect PTP weekly with Taiwan, Hong Kong and other Southeast Asian ports," it added.

Mohamad Sidik Shaik Osman, PTP's chief executive, said the port was honored to serve Evergreen.

"Our growth has received another unprecedented boost and the port will do all it can to utilize PTP's excellent connectivity to attract more common-user, distributing and logistics companies," he said.

Malaysia has expressed concern that a land reclamation project in the Tebrau Strait by Singapore could obstruct ships headed for its ports, but Singapore has rejected the suggestion. ***AFP***

Japan launches nationwide probe of No. 1 meat packer

TOKYO—Japan on Tuesday launched a nationwide probe into the origin of beef at the country's top meat processing group, Nippon Meat Packers Inc., after a mislabeling beef fraud.

Farm ministry officials searched beef storage at Nippon Food Inc. to see if all the beef the Nippon Meat Packers subsidiary submitted to a state-run meat buyback scheme was produced from domestic cattle.

Earlier in the month, the parent company admitted the subsidiary firm had disguised imported beef as domestic beef to qualify for the buyback program set up after the discovery of mad cow disease in Japan last September.

The scheme was created in October to help farmers get rid of surplus beef after a mad cow scare led to a sharp fall in beef sales. Imported beef is not covered by the scheme.

Nippon Food submitted 142.8 tons of beef for the buyback scheme in November and received 100 million yen ($840,000) in government subsidies. Nippon Meat Packers said 4.8 tons of the total were labeled imported beef.

A farm ministry official said Tuesday the government would investigate the origin of all the 142.8 tons of beef.

"We are going to conduct a thorough investigation as we want to restore consumer confidence," the official said, adding it would take a week to complete inspection.

Meanwhile, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said Tuesday Nippon Meat Packers was considering spinning off its meat-related operations after the beef-labeling scandal.

The spin-off would create a new holding company to manage meat operations and to ensure meat safety and improve management, the daily said.

Nippon Meat Packers denied the report.

On Monday, the company said its founder and chair, Yoshinori Okoso, would resign to take the responsibility for the scandal that sparked a retailer boycott. ***AFP***

Sony launches opening salvo in online game war

LOS ANGELES—It may be a modern parent's worst nightmare—video games and the Internet, two huge consumers of teenage time, fused into one global network.

The game industry is determined to create just that type of creature.

On Tuesday, the US video game arm of Japanese media giant Sony Corp. launched the first salvo in a coming online gaming war with Microsoft Corp.'s Xbox and Nintendo Co. Ltd.'s GameCube when it released a $39.99 adapter for the PlayStation 2 game player.

The adapter allows a PS2 to connect to the Net via dial-up or high-speed broadband connection. At launch, a total of 13 games will be available supporting Internet play.

Sony's launch comes ahead of expected fall roll-out for similar offerings by its competitors and at a time when the video game industry's trade group has found that almost one-third of frequent video game players play online—a market the industry sees as a lucrative revenue generator.

Sony Computer Entertainment of America, the company's game arm, is hoping to sell as many as 400,000 of the adapters by the end of the year, a healthy number but a small percentage of the more than 11 million PS2 consoles in homes today.

But a slow start is exactly what the company says it wants. ***Reuters***

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Stradcom set to secure ₱1.9B in new loans

By Abigail L. Ho

STRADCOM Corp., a technology company that won a P3.4-billion contract from the Land Transportation Office, said yesterday it was likely to secure a P1.9-billion loan facility this month.

In an interview, Stradcom chief finance officer Raul Pagdanganan said the money would come from the World Bank, a technology company and three local banks.

"This financing will be used for the rollout of the LTO computerization program, which we aim to complete by the end of the year," he told reporters on the sidelines of the launching of the LTO's website.

Pagdanganan said the International Finance Corp., the World Bank's investment arm, would extend some $12 million loan to Stradcom.

IFC owns 15 percent of Stradcom's parent firm, Stradcom International Holdings Inc.

Unisys Corp. will also provide Stradcom a $10-million loan. The company is one of Stradcom's technology partners for the LTO computerization project.

The local lenders, meanwhile, will account for some P820 million, according to Pagdanganan. These are the Philippine Bank of Communications, which will extend P355 million; Development Bank of the Philippines, P350 million; and, the Export and Industry Bank, P115 million.

Pagdanganan said these loans would be payable in seven years, with a grace period of two years.

Stradcom failed to meet its target to complete the LTO's computerization project by the end of last year because of insufficient funding and systems inadequacy.

Pagdanganan said with the new loans that the company was set to secure this month, Stradcom was likely to meet its new end-2002 deadline.

"The rollout is proceeding as planned. Out of the 235 district offices nationwide, 110 are already fully computerized. These account for 72 percent of LTO district offices in the country. We expect completion by year's end, except for areas in southern Philippines, where there are peace and order problems," he reported.

Documentation of the financing facility is set for completion within the month, with full release expected to follow soon after, he said.

Full computerization of the LTO's systems, a 10-year build-own-operate project, is expected to result in more efficient registration processes, faster renewal and issuance of driver's licenses, and eventual removal of all "fixers" in the agency, LTO chief Roberto Lastimoso said in an earlier interview.

The project began in 1998 and involved the establishment of a systems management center handling the LTO's applications and networking operations.

The original proponents for the project are Strategic Alliance for Development Corp. and Comfac Corp., which formed Stradcom Corp.

ePLDT, the technology arm of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., last year made a $12-million strategic investment in convertible redeemable preferred stocks of Strategic International.

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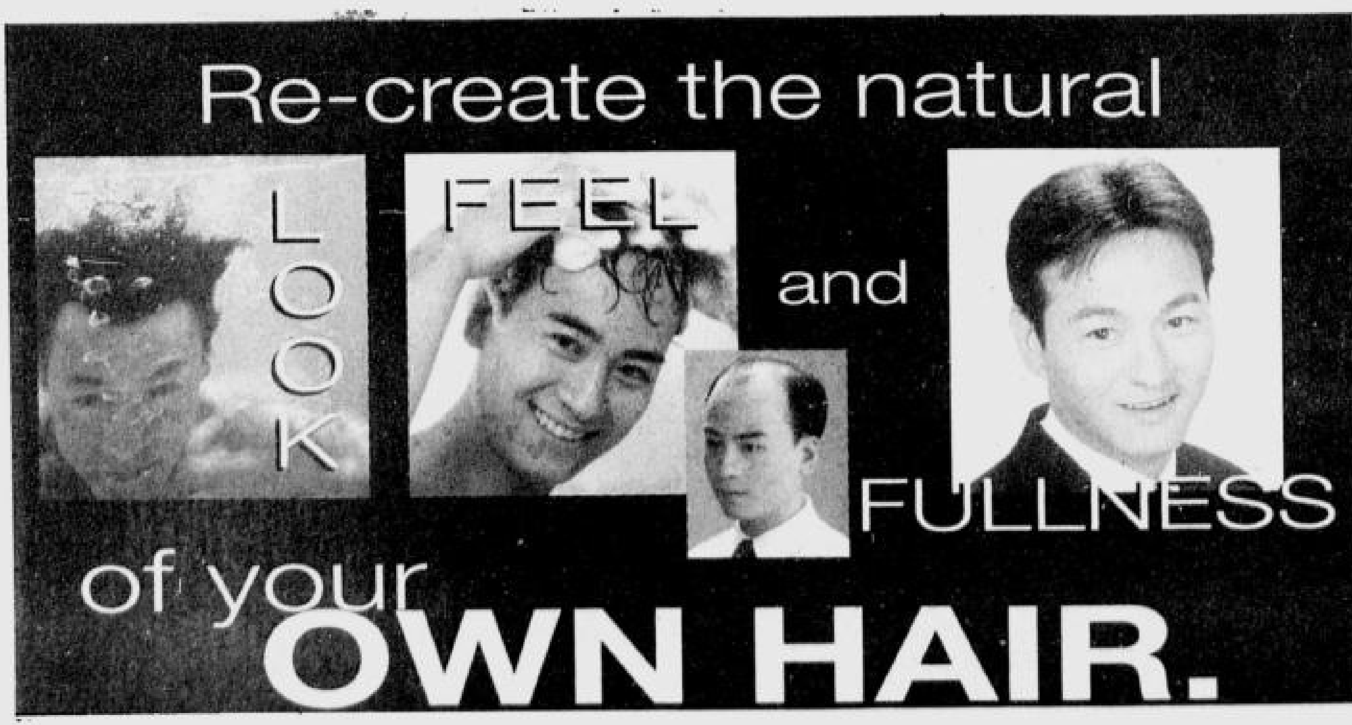

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PEOPLE at WORK

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Manager finds quality difficult to sell

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

FROM a career in sales and customer service, I have risen to become today the manager of purchasing and quality in my company. In this position, I analyze existing procedures of every department and their effectiveness in interfacing/ linking with other departments in contributing to customer satisfaction and accomplishing the company's mission. I report the problems I find to my immediate supervisor, the operations manager, and a written report is given to the management team and the head of the department concerned.

My difficulty is, with all my efforts (friendly conversations, e-mail, memos, reminders), most of the time, my co-managers do not accomplish quality requirements to solve problems. They consider quality as the last priority in their work agenda. I feel that even our general manager and my immediate superior, the operations manager, do not give me full support. I was disappointed when my immediate superior gave me a lower performance rating than I expected for the first semester. I feel I deserved more because I performed tasks beyond what is expected of me.

All managers in my company have multiple functions which is why they say they are busy. Maybe it is a matter of time management or they do not really value the importance of quality. Or is it a cross-cultural difficulty? Our general managers are expatriates and they are changed every two years. As employees, we adjust every time we change GMs because every GM has his own management style.

Maybe I am not good in selling the importance of quality to my co-managers What should I have done better?

Quality Manager

I admire your great desire to learn and improve your craft. Indeed, your letter represents the best attitude of a total quality person, possessing a mindset of continuous improvement.

Quality is a line function and every manager has to assume primary responsibility for its success. Your role as quality manager is mainly to provide performance support. This means providing the managers with the proper attitude, competencies and tools to make their quality efforts a success.

Planning

Planning and implementing quality is similar to any major and continuing change effort. It requires, as you rightfully mentioned, management commitment, employee ownership and participation and responsive performance support. In the light of your situation, what can you do?

Initiate a dialogue with each of your co-managers and find out in what areas of quality they need help. Your focus on procedures improvement as a way of improving quality may not be what the managers need. In my experience, you get best cooperation and results if the line manager sees quality as a support to meeting his objectives. Today's work life where people have to handle multiple jobs requires adroit time management skills. It is important that line managers see a close link between their functional and quality objectives.

Helping hand

Position yourself in the role of a helping hand rather than a critic. Could it be that the quality reports cause irritation and embarrassment? Could there be another way to raise awareness that lead to action? For instance, you can offer to train the manager's people in problem solving techniques and create a mechanism for them to apply the skills back on the job. The manager can then monitor results. You can work together on pressing issues. You could offer to play the role of facilitator. Clarify with your immediate boss his expectations of your role and function. Be creative, think of innovative ways to be of help.

Indeed, you have a challenging job of selling the quality program. Remember Pareto's Law. Put your energies in the 20 percent of activities that will give you 80 percent of the results. That 20 percent is getting comanagers commitment, training and education and creating structures to reinforce quality. One effective structure is to incorporate quality in the performance appraisal system for managers and employees. If quality is considered in terms of appraisal and reward, it will surely get attention.

Springboard

Don't be disheartened by your performance appraisal rating. In my earlier career, I sulked when my appraisal was not up to my expectations. My caring boss at that time took me aside and told me that a professional is one who takes feedback well and uses a temporary setback as a springboard to success. You may choose to view a less satisfactory rating as a blessing in disguise.

On the cross-cultural management of your company, what is important is to get diversity management savvy. There are training programs that enhance cross-cultural management skills. Or you can get some books on the topic as well. Wishing you only the best. May you crack the "quality puzzle" in your company soon.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@ pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

Low emotional intelligence can wreck your career

By Josie O. Santamaria

(This is the second part of last week's article on emotional intelligence by career development expert, Josie Santamaria.)

EMOTIONAL intelligence or EQ affects careers. The stories of Mario and Marissa illustrate this fact. Mario, a business development director, used his high EQ to propel his career while Marissa, a sales director, encountered difficulties in her career because of her low EQ.

Marissa, in her drive for high performance, encountered difficulties with her sales supervisors and salesmen. After discovering discrepancies in the field, she started firing salesmen. After Marissa terminated another salesman, the president of the company received a petition the following month from the field sales force, signed by all the supervisors and salesman from the GMA area, demanding the removal of Marissa from her position, threatening a mass resignation.

They accused Marissa of the following:

1. She ignored the sales force who she should be consulting because they were the ones implementing marketing plans and programs.

2. She was judgmental; she had the mindset that the sales force was only after high commissions.

3. She did not know how to listen; her mind was closed to the opinions and views of others; she was not open to new ideas or suggestions.

4. She was dictatorial and highhanded; she just expected the sales force to simply comply with her instructions.

5. She was insensitive to their needs and feel-

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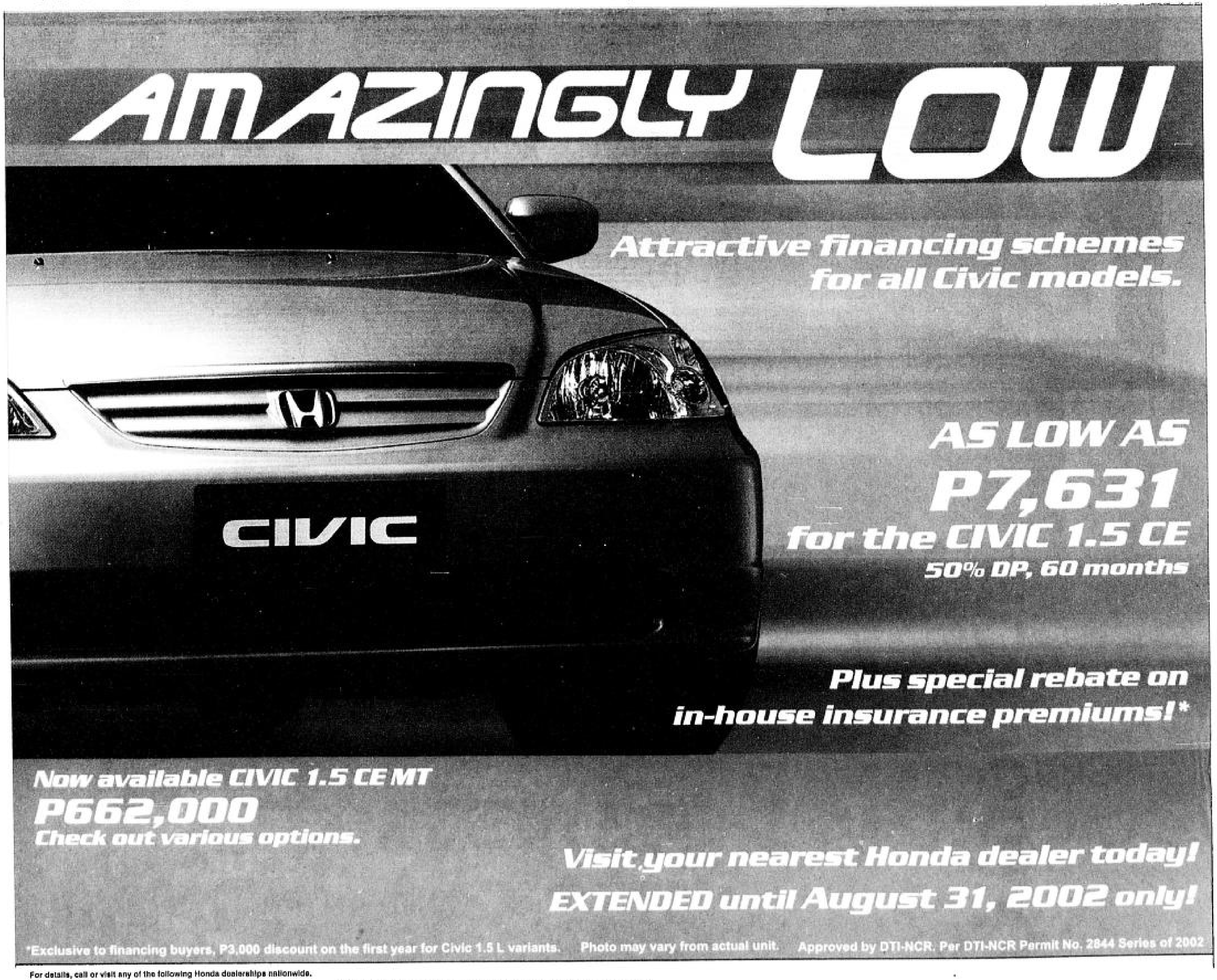
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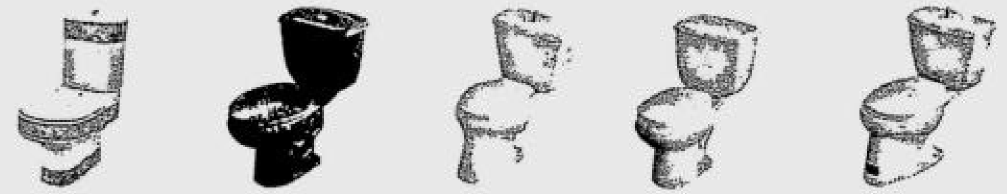

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How do you cope with a boss who drives you crazy?

If your boss is frequently reducing you to tears, you may be too wrapped up in your job

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: My boss left me in tears after a meeting yesterday. I don't know why he pushes all my buttons, but he does. Is there anything I can do to reduce his influence over me?

Tears For Fears

Your letter got me thinking about something else that recently brought tears to people's eyes, the smell in the Paris subways. Whether it was caused by the ancient sewer system, a malfunctioning ventilation system, or the French aversion to regular bathing no one knew, but subway riders were gagging underground. So what did subway officials do? Something only the French would think of: they sprayed gallons of perfume on the floor of every Metro station!

You'd probably like more than a cosmetic solution to your problem, though. So here are some questions you can ask yourself to help you get at the source of your problem. For more, check out, "Jump Start Your Career" by Lois Frankel (Three Rivers Press, 1997).

1. Does everyone have the same problem with your boss that you do? Look around. Are there workers who seem never to get on your boss's bad side? Rather than hating them, buy them coffee and see if they'll share their secrets. There may be simple solutions to your problem just a desk or two away.

2. Do you look for opportunities to make your boss look good? Your boss will be less inclined to yank your chain if he sees you looking out for him.

(Notice I said, "less inclined," not "unwilling.") Do you hate him so much you don't want to protect him? If you can't motivate yourself to make your boss look good, then it's probably time to motivate yourself to find a new one.

3. Do you make it easy for your boss to pick on you? Do you react with tears or rancor each time he criticizes you? If so, you might be fueling his fire. Try listening earnestly and then saying "thank you." Your "sincerity" may make it far less entertaining to give you a hard time.

4. Can you focus on what your boss is saying that's important and tune out the rest? It isn't easy to tune out messages that get us where it hurts, but that may be what you have to do. Think of it as a game: boss archeology. You sift through the rubble of his message to find the occasional pieces worth collecting.

5. Is it time to get a life? If your boss is frequently reducing you to tears, you may be too wrapped up in your job. It may be time to volunteer, find friends outside of work, develop a hobby, or generally beef up that other side of your life. When was the last time you left work on time?

As much as your boss makes you gag right now, you need to either learn to get along better with him or go shopping for a new one. Hopefully, either strategy will help you find the sweet smell of success.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com poll: Which movie title best describes your relationship with your boss?

Little Shop of Horrors, 19.6 percent

It's a Wonderful Life, 23.9 percent

House of Games, 56.3 percent

Our winning strategy for dealing with a difficult boss comes from Paula L. in Santa Fe, NM. "My boss got his jollies from pummeling employees: he'd hire vulnerable people and give them confusing instructions. Then, within hearing of the rest of the department, he'd tell them that they were incompetent and threaten to fire them. I carefully documented all his instructions to me. Then, when he called me in for one of his little 'chats,' I was able to keep my cool because I was mentally taking notes on how he was contradicting himself. Then I went to Personnel with a good case, and they defanged him. But I quit the job: who needs to spend 40 hours a week around a creep like that?"

(E-mail feedback to bob@workingwounded.com)

Low emotional...

From page C1

ings. When she spoke, her words hurt, insulted and demeaned the people who work with her.

6. She did not trust the sales force; she was always "breathing down their necks" to see if they are following her marketing plans and programs.

The president also listened to Marissa's explanations. He suggested to Marissa that she might have to change her ways; otherwise she would have to resign. Marissa was adamant. She expected the president to side with her and to support her, being part of management.

The president was in a dilemma-he needed Marissa because she had business acumen and was a brilliant strategist, but he could not afford to lose some of the good people in the field sales force and demoralize the others.

The petitioners were bent on seeking her ouster. It was obvious that they did not like her and did not believe she could ever change. The president had no recourse but to suggest that Marissa take a leave. This suggestion led Marissa to resign.

Impact of EQ

From these two cases, it is clear which of them was a success with people and effective at work. Mario was effective because he was sensitive to the needs and feelings of others, liked people and knew how to get along and work with them to achieve common goals. Marissa thought that her academic credentials and high intellectual gifts were all that mattered. She discounted the importance of positive interpersonal relationships with people she worked with. She was doing what was right, but the manner in which she was doing them had adverse effects on the people who were working with her.

These cases show the importance of EQ at work which is borne out by various research. Dr. Daniel Goleman is credited as having been the first to do research on emotional intelligence in organizations and to determine the competencies that describe EQ. He defines EQ as the ability to recognize and manage our own feelings and those of others so that we can build positive and strong relationships with them. Another author, Dr. A. Weisinger, defines EQ as the ability to make our emotions work for us by using them in ways that produce the results we want.

These definitions show that important organizational competencies such as outstanding leadership, customer service and teamwork are based on EQ. EQ does not just mean being nice to people because there are times when a leader is called on to be firm and tough. EQ does not also mean giving free rein to feelings because an important aspect of EQ is personal restraint and self-control.

Components

From his early research published in 1998, Dr. Goleman classified emotional competencies into five dimensions. These are: self-awareness, self-regulation, strong motivation to achieve, empathy and social skills. The first three are self-management skills and the last two refer to a person's ability to manage relationship with others.

In a publication in 2000, Dr. Goleman collapsed these five components into four dimensions, which must all be present to make a person effective. These are: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness and social skills. Self-awareness and social awareness, self-management and social skills complement one another. Each one builds on the other.

(Ms Santamaia is president of Career Systems, Inc., a firm specializing in career planning and development consultancy and services.)

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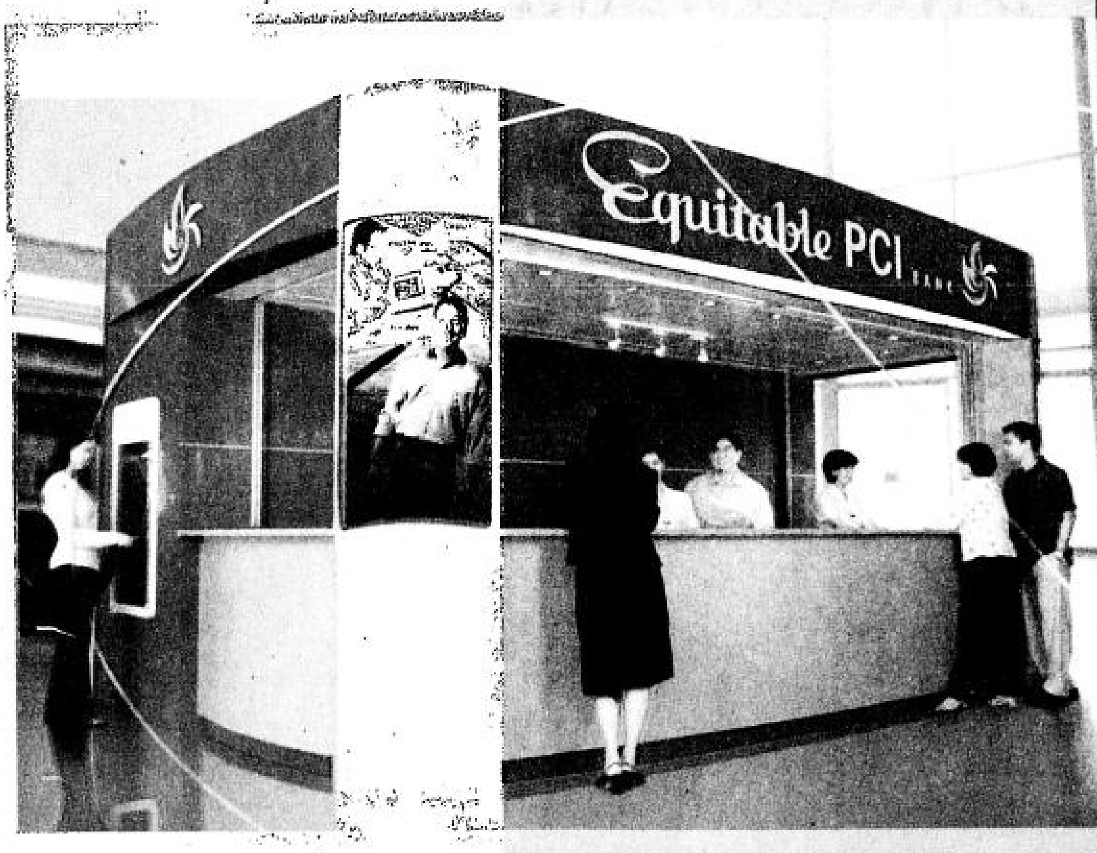

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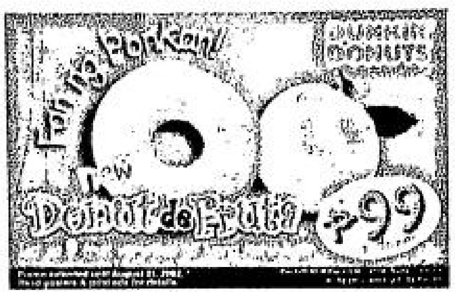

LIFESTYLE

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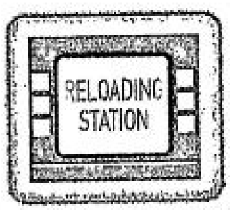

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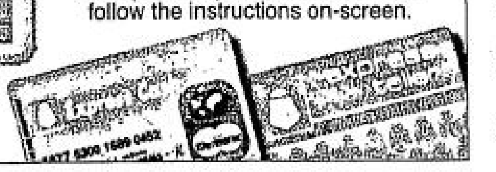
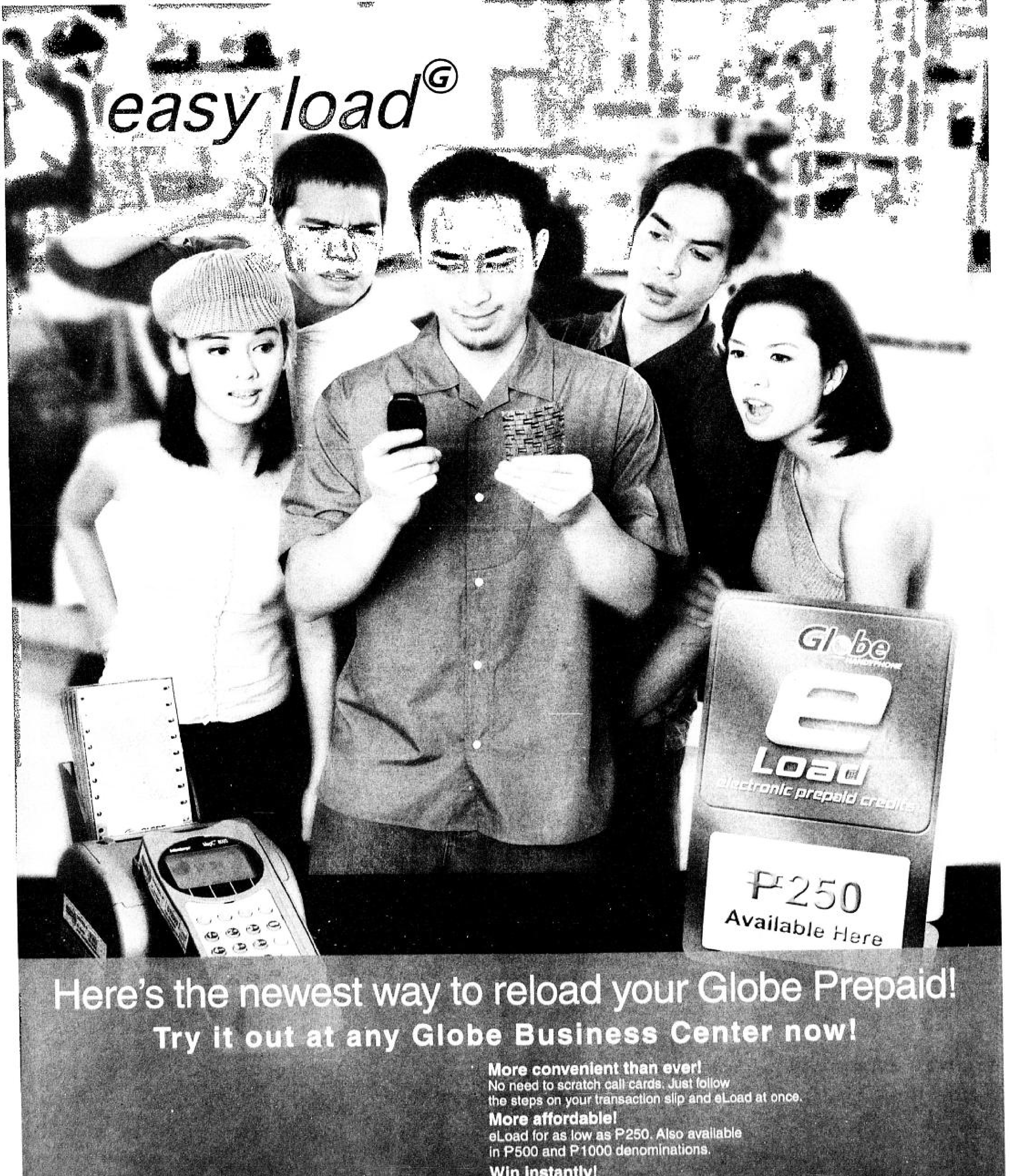


Blue, blue, blue, let our world be blue one more time as 2bU! invades the halls of this soaring institution—from benchmarked areas to celebrity eagles—here's a sure-fire guide to making it on the A list, the Ateneo way



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QUAD

Bench-marking on campus

By Celeste Gomez
2bU! Correspondent

BACK in high school, I remember being told gazillions of stories concerning different colleges. Besides UP's Oblation Run (which, I still haven't seen), UST's rainy-day wet 'n wild extravaganza and La Salle's parking adventure challenge, there is, of course, the exaggerated warning on the Ateneo's bench culture. The Atenean's most popular *tambayan* is not just to be considered an ordinary wooden structure to sit on—it's actually a lifestyle!

These are what the so-called "bench people" have to say about the quintessential Atenean *tambayan*:

It's an extension of my house! We eat, sleep, do homework and just bum around!—**Rally, 19**

It's a place where you go when you don't have anything to do.—**Jumi, 20**

It's the place to be!—**Eric, 21**

It's a place in school where you don't think about school. You just laugh, play cards, board games, eat and enjoy each other's company.—**Acky, 20**

It's a community and a source of empowerment.—**Nicky, 19**

It's an informal organization.—**Dre, 19**

A sanctuary from the rest of the school.—**Will, 22**

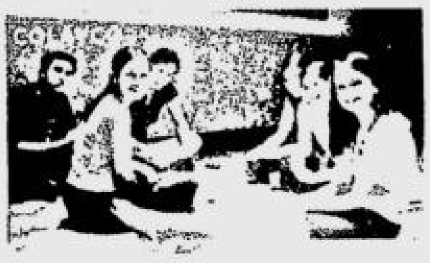
A place where I feel special.—**Foxy, 21**

It is where dreams are made.—**Sue, 20**

It's exclusive.—**Marko, 21**

KOSTKA

Some benches around campus:

Name of bench	Location	What do you have 30 steps away from you?	Bench trivia
Psycolayco 	Colayco lobby, across Ate Alma's photocopying area	CR, Photocopying machine, water fountain, locker, the smoking area (Ateneo's sunken garden), stand fan, ceiling fan, phone booth, fire extinguisher, *magtataho, mamang sorbetero*... and they're the only ones who have a sun roof!	All those who stay at this bench are either currently taking up psychology or are previous psychology majors. This has only been established as a Psych bench two years ago.
X-BMH	Kostka	Photocopying machine, CR, phone booth, vending machine	All those who hang out at this bench were ex-BMH (Business Management Honors) students.
Dollhouse (formerly called the Pink Corner, the Happy Bench and the Gay Bench) CAF bench	Rizal Study Foyer	Ate Mercy and her photocopying machine, ATM, payphone, CR and the view of people rushing to class. Longest bench; have special pink ID tags and celebrate their anniversary every third Friday of July; have their own volleyball league (DHVB).	They are open to a lot of surveys about gender psychology. In four years, the dollhouse has had five different locations within the same area.
Doghouse	Quad	Nothing, except a 360-degree view of the inside of the college campus.	In order to hang out, you need to be invited and to undergo a certain type of "initiation."
Catharsis COLAYCO	SEC (between SEC B and SEC C, opposite the *higad* bench)	Proximity to the water fountain, CR, vendo machines and free computer usage (computer lab)	This bench is a result of three mergers of three benches. Catharsis is made up of all sorts of artists, musicians, film buffs, writers, culture jammers and hardcore romantics. Fun activities include impromptu bongo and guitar sessions, lounging in the grass, lots of shrieking and laughter, and random futile attempts at scaring people with disembodied limbs. This is an alternative home where ideas, works and our very selves are acknowledged, respected and understood.

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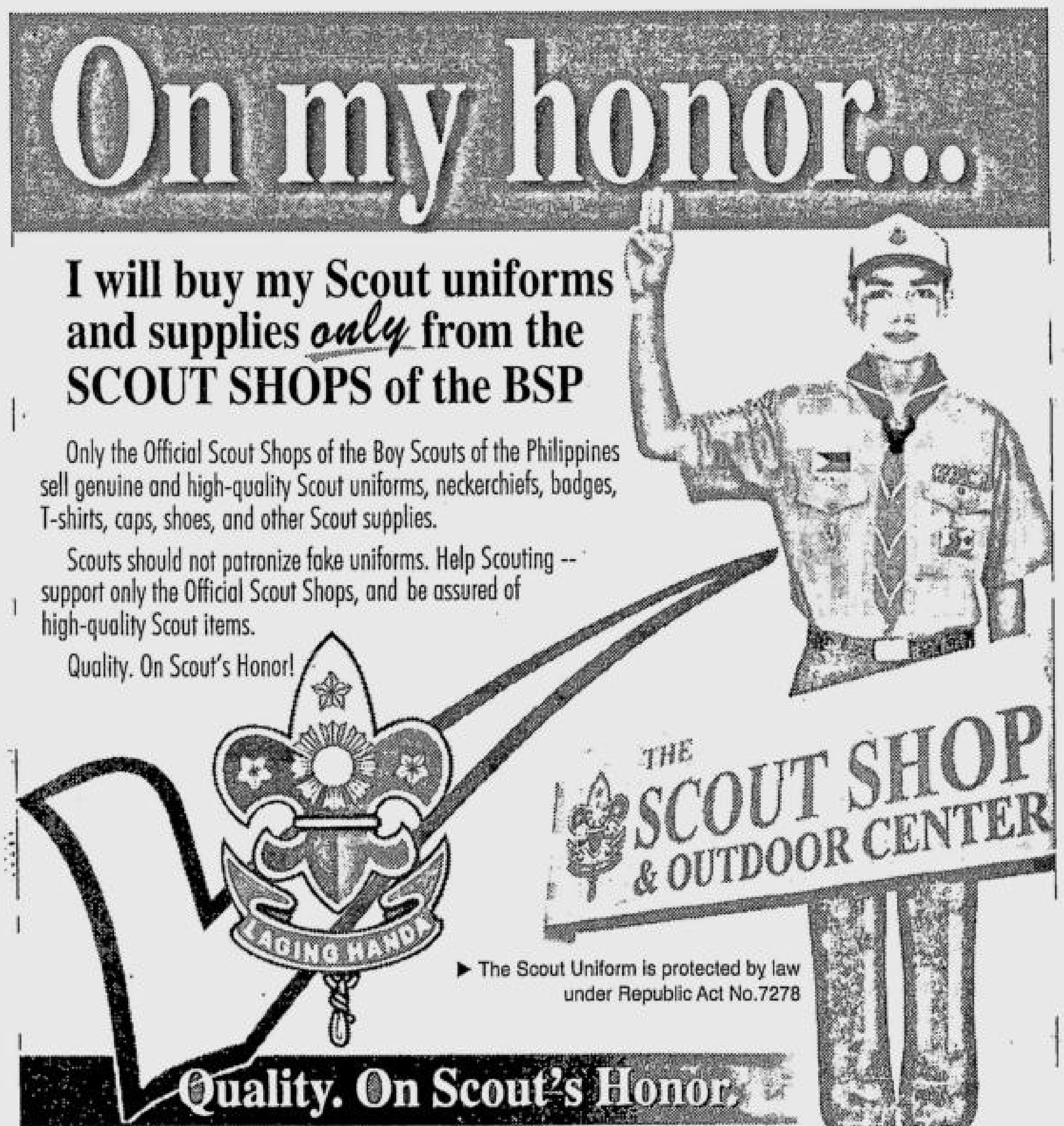
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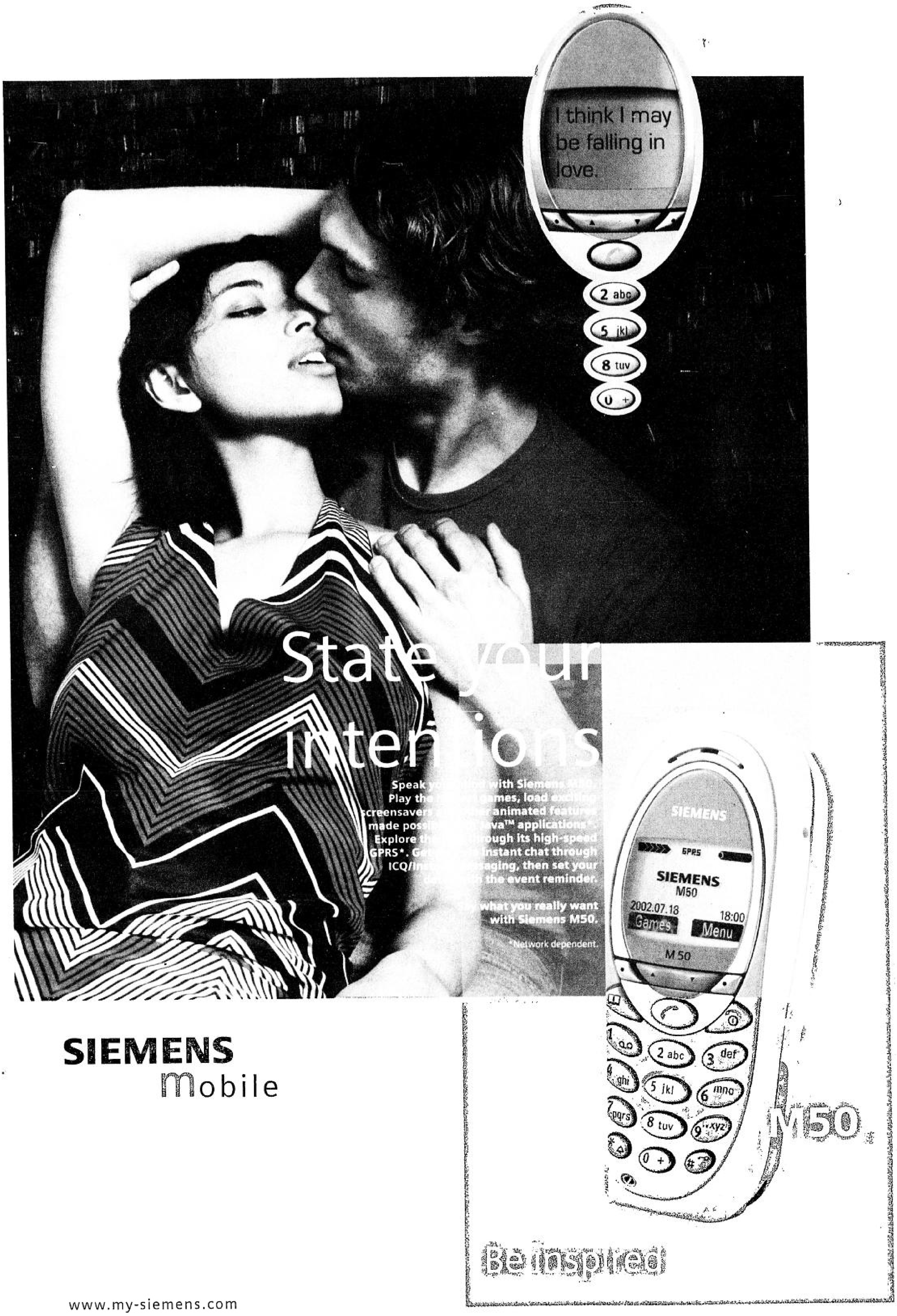
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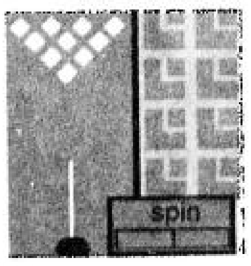

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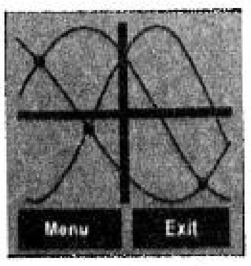

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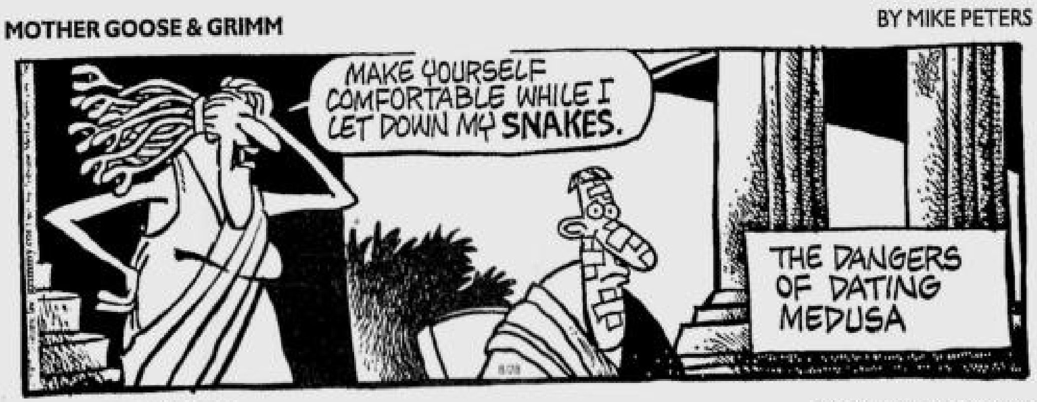
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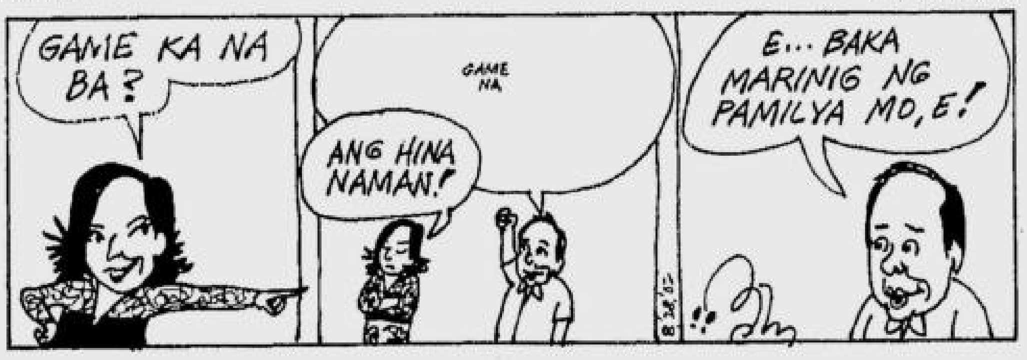
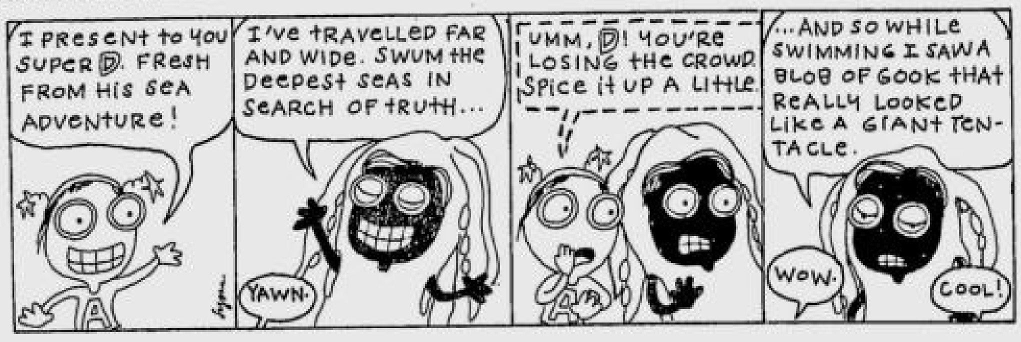
THE DANGERS OF DATING MEDUSA

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


GAME KA NA BA?
GAME NA
ANG HINA NAMAN!
E... BAKA MARINIG NG PAMILYA MO, E!

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO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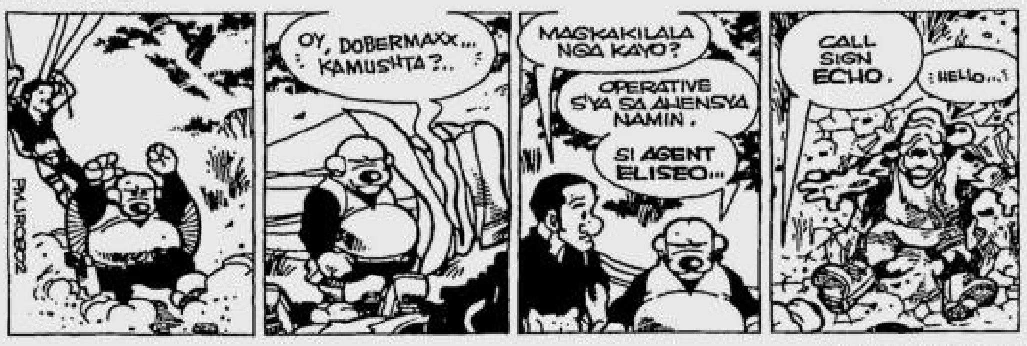
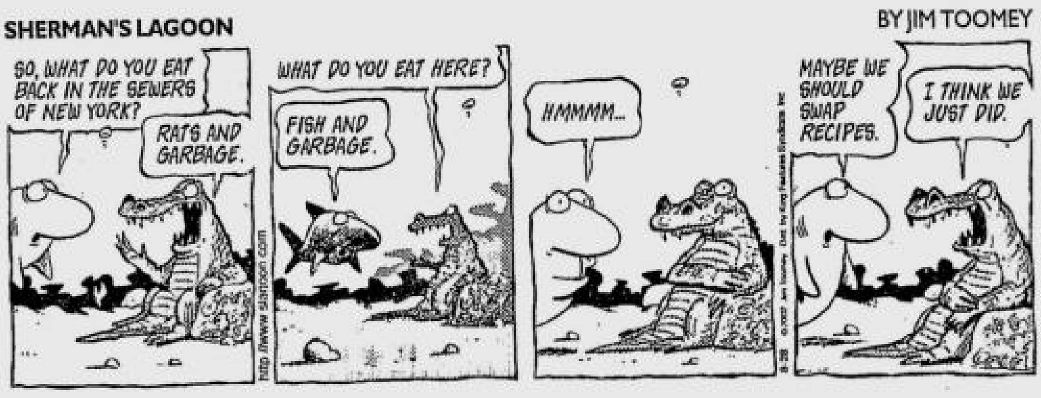
YAWN.
UMM, D! YOU'RE LOSING THE CROWD. SPICE IT UP A LITTLE.
...AND SO WHILE SWIMMING I SAW A BLOB OF GOOK THAT REALLY LOOKED LIKE A GIANT TENTACLE.
WOW.
COOL!

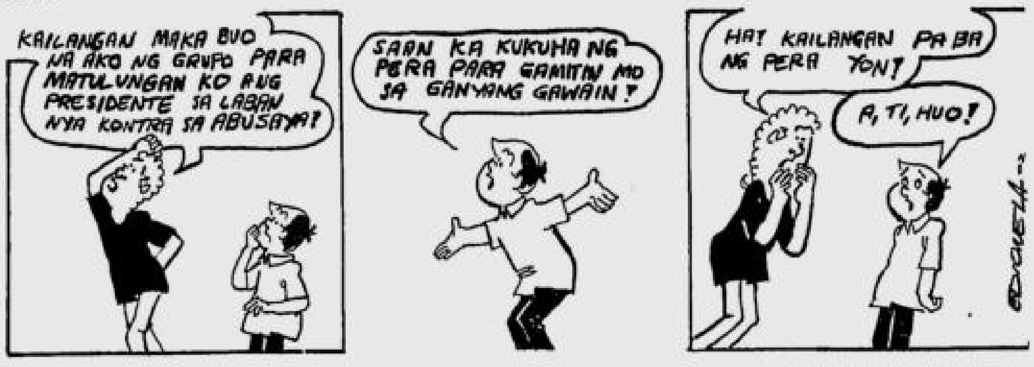
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


OY, DOBERMAXX... KAMUSHTA?..
MAGKAKILALA NGA KAYO?
OPERATIVE S'YA SA AHENSYA NAMIN.
SI AGENT ELISEO...
CALL SIGN ECHO.
HELLO...

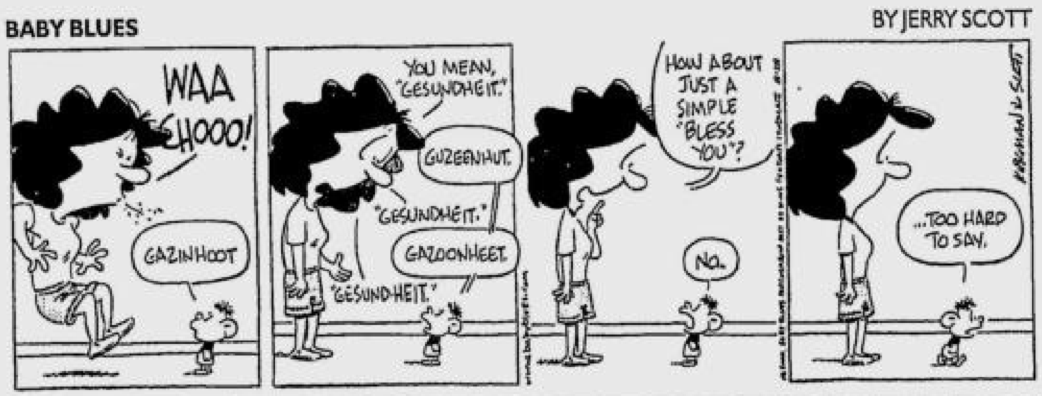
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


SO, WHAT DO YOU EAT BACK IN THE SEWERS OF NEW YORK?
RATS AND GARBAGE.
WHAT DO YOU EAT HERE?
FISH AND GARBAGE.
HMMMM...
MAYBE WE SHOULD SWAP RECIPES.
I THINK WE JUST DID.

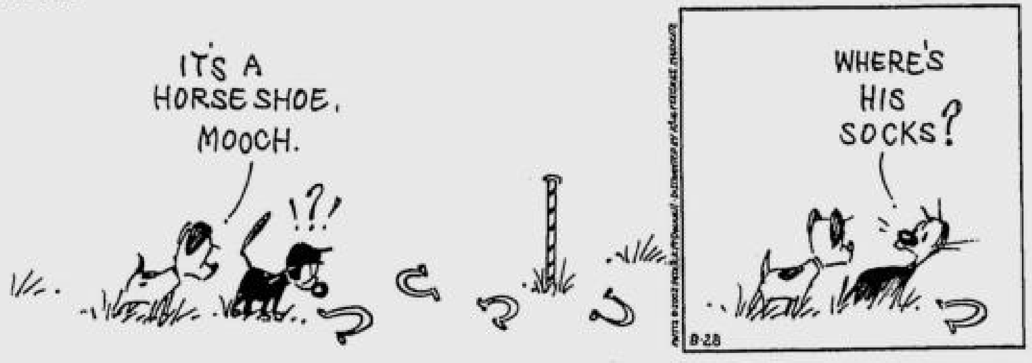
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


KAILANGAN MAKA BUO NA AKO NG GRUPO PARA MATULUNGAN KO ANG PRESIDENTE SA LABAN NYA KONTRA SA ABUSAYA?
SAAN KA KUKUHA NG PERA PARA GAMITIN MO SA GANYANG GAWAIN?
HA? KAILANGAN PA BA NG PERA YON?
A, TI, HUO!

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WAA CHOOO!
GAZINHOOT
YOU MEAN, "GESUNDHEIT."
GUZEENHUT.
"GESUNDHEIT."
GAZOONHEET.
"GESUND-HEIT."
HOW ABOUT JUST A SIMPLE "BLESS YOU"?
NO.
...TOO HARD TO SAY.

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


IT'S A HORSE SHOE, MOOCH.
!?!
WHERE'S HIS SOCKS?
8-28

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Daniel Stern, Richard Sanders, Ben Gazzara, Jason Priestley, Scott Hamilton

Happy Birthday: Your main concern this year will be with helping those who can't help themselves. Your loyalty and concern for anyone suffering or going through tough times will lead to all sorts of new connections. Worthwhile groups will help you and may even offer you a leadership position in their organization. Your numbers are 7, 12, 20, 31, 38, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stress due to financial worries will lead to health problems. You are far too busy to have to take a few days off to rest. Get your finances in order.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will take things a little too seriously today. Don't let your emotions cause problems with people in your partnership. You are probably not seeing things too clearly.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't get emotional about things you can't change. Make whatever adjustments are necessary to have a good time and enjoy life. Don't live in the past or dwell on someone who has disappointed you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Helping a worthy cause will make you feel good about yourself, and will result in a friendship with someone who shares your values and beliefs. Activities that deal with children will be rewarding.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Things may not be as they appear. Don't rely on the promises made by others. It will be difficult for you to get along with others today, especially if you are determined to have your own way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Information will be the key to opening up doors that will lead to all sorts of enterprising opportunities. Communications, travel and learning will all be in a high cycle.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may be drawn toward financial deals that are not in your best interest. Back off if someone tries to push you in a direction you don't care to go. Focus on being the best you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone you are with today will be highly emotional and hard to deal with. Keep personal issues at bay and focus more on what you can do to get ahead in your professional or educational pursuits.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put your efforts into getting along with those you work with and finishing whatever you start. Your emotional well-being will affect your health if you let yourself become stressed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be totally creative today no matter what you pursue. Even in social settings, your imagination will draw attention. Be careful, however, not to overspend.

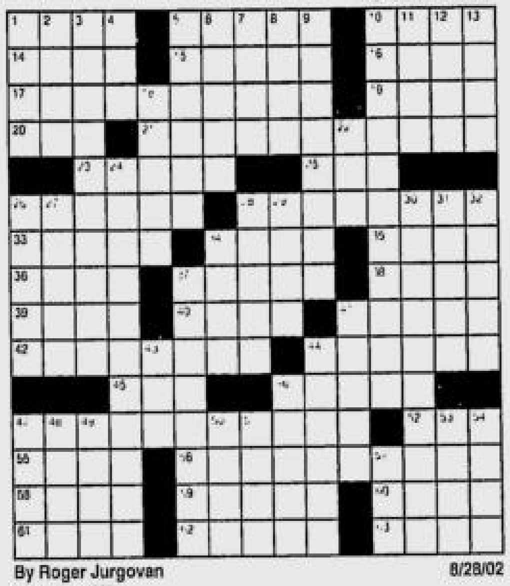
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Someone you live with may need your help. If an emotional matter crops up, deal with it quickly before it gets blown out of proportion. Be aware that not everyone will be able to keep a secret.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Follow your own desires and not what everyone else wants you to do today. Volunteering might be nice, but if you are too generous you will be taken advantage of. Focus on spending time with friends you trust.

Birthday Baby: You will be bright, bold and beautiful. You will always be the center of attention. You will have a way with words that will captivate any audience. Be a leader.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD

8/28/02

ACROSS
1 Faction
5 Aromatic conifer
10 "__ Sanctorum"
14 Sixth Hebrew month
15 Clay-and-straw brick
16 Satiate
17 Healthful
19 Prevalent
20 Dallas sch.
21 Too boring
23 Ways of acting
25 Liquor used in grog
26 Transport
28 Stuffed pastas
33 Ram of the zodiac
34 Lone
35 Pinta's sister ship
36 In need
37 Supplied hints to
38 Frosts
39 Burden
40 Despise
41 Afrikaners
42 Rapid decline
44 Bonus
45 Fierce mythical bird
46 Winter coat?
47 Successful
52 Chit
55 Panache
56 Health-giving
58 Brummell or Bridges
59 Drive out
60 Subterfuge
61 Matched groups
62 Tender spots
63 Mach+ jets

DOWN
1 Insolent rejoinder
2 City on the Ijsselmeer
3 Defamatory
4 Play about Capote
5 Dana of "Wayne's World"
6 McClurg and Brickell
7 Means of access
8 Adjoin
9 Booked
10 Rancorous
11 Advertising award
12 Vegetarian's staple
13 Those in favor
18 Portends
22 Letters for drunk drivers
24 Excessively staid
26 Fowl choice
27 University of Maine location
28 Customary line of travel
29 Toward shelter
30 Libertine
31 Motionless
32 Impertinent
34 Eastern European
37 Resorts to tricks
41 Push upward
43 Gunslinger Holliday
44 Spreads news of
46 Strong-arm tactics
47 Wanes
48 Unobstructed
49 Decree
50 Stephen King's dog?
51 Caesar's direction
53 Expel
54 Applications
57 Federal tax agcy.

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

D	A	T	E	S	■	L	E	N	T	O	■	A	P	A
E	L	E	N	I	■	E	X	E	R	T	■	G	A	D
B	A	N	A	N	A	S	P	L	I	T	■	O	R	D
T	N	N	■	U	N	S	O	L	D	■	T	U	T	U
■	■	I	R	A	T	E	■	■	E	R	O	T	I	C
S	P	L	I	T	I	N	F	I	N	I	T	I	V	E
A	L	L	I	E	S	■	L	O	T	T	■	■	■	■
D	Y	E	S	■	■	F	E	N	■	■	U	P	T	O
■	■	■	■	E	D	I	E	■	S	A	M	O	A	N
F	O	U	R	S	I	X	T	E	N	S	P	L	I	T
O	R	L	O	P	S	■	■	L	A	P	S	E	■	■
O	N	L	Y	■	H	O	M	A	G	E	■	B	R	O
L	A	M	■	S	P	L	I	T	S	C	R	E	E	N
E	T	A	■	P	A	I	N	E	■	T	H	A	N	E
D	E	N	■	A	N	N	E	S	■	S	O	N	E	S

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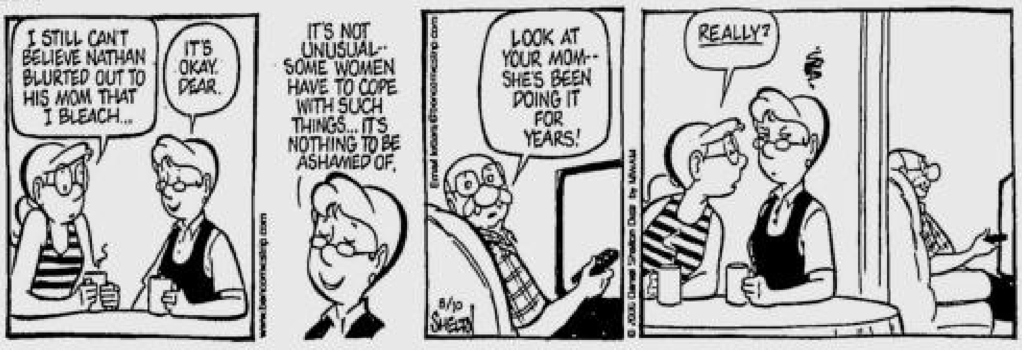
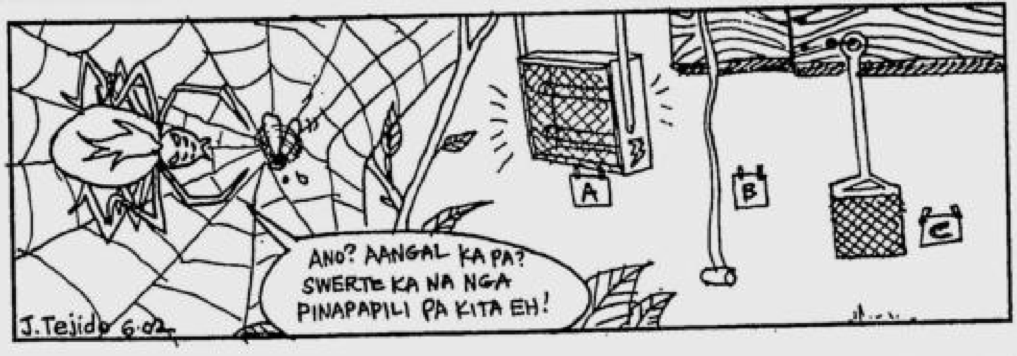
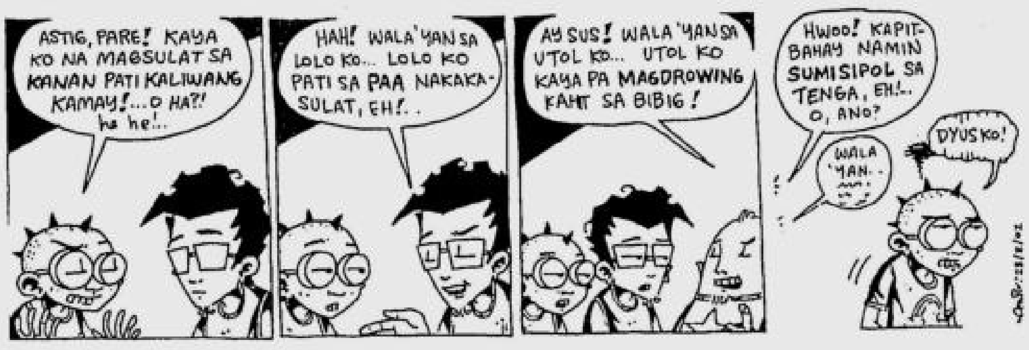
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE NATHAN BLURTED OUT TO HIS MOM THAT I BLEACH...
IT'S OKAY, DEAR.
IT'S NOT UNUSUAL-- SOME WOMEN HAVE TO COPE WITH SUCH THINGS... IT'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.
LOOK AT YOUR MOM-- SHE'S BEEN DOING IT FOR YEARS!
REALLY?

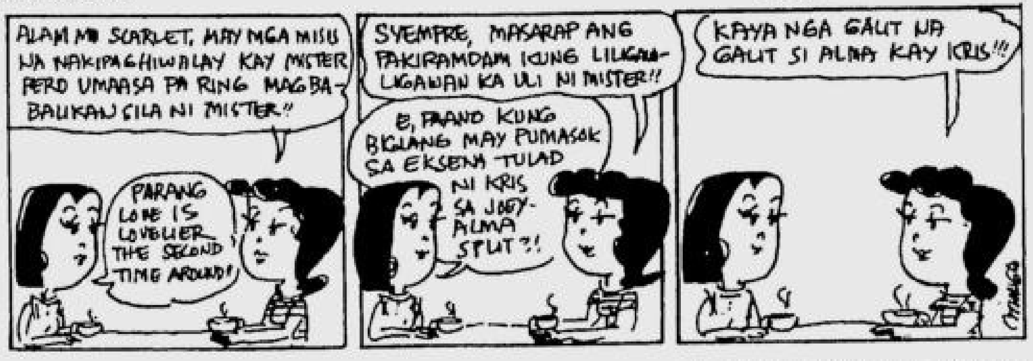
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


A
B
C
ANO? AANGAL KA PA? SWERTE KA NA NGA PINAPAPILI PA KITA EH!
J.Tejido 6.02

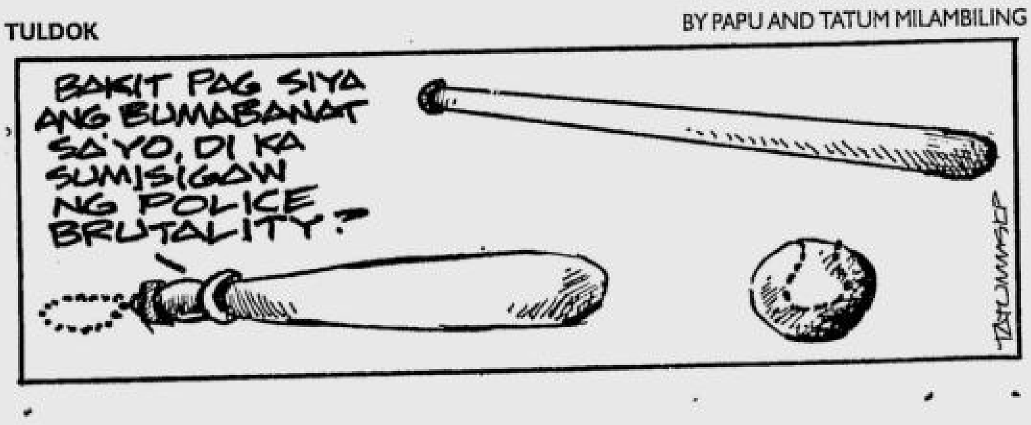
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


ASTIG, PARE! KAYA KO NA MAGSULAT SA KANAN PATI KALIWANG KAMAY!... O HA?! he he!..
HAH! WALA 'YAN SA LOLO KO... LOLO KO PATI SA PAA NAKAKA-SULAT, EH!..
AY SUS! WALA 'YAN SA UTOL KO... UTOL KO KAYA PA MAGDROWING KAHIT SA BIBIG!
HWOO! KAPIT-BAHAY NAMIN SUMISIPOL SA TENGA, EH!.. O, ANO?
WALA 'YAN..
DYUS KO!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO SCARLET, MAY MGA MISIS NA NAKIPAGHIWALAY KAY MISTER PERO UMAASA PA RING MAGBABALIKAN SILA NI MISTER."
PARANG LOVE IS LOVELIER THE SECOND TIME AROUND!
SYEMPRE, MASARAP ANG PAKIRAMDAM KUNG LILIGAW-LIGAWAN KA ULI NI MISTER!!
E, PAANO KUNG BIGLANG MAY PUMASOK SA EKSENA TULAD NI KRIS SA JOEY-ALMA SPLIT?!
KAYA NGA GALIT NA GALIT SI ALMA KAY KRIS!!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

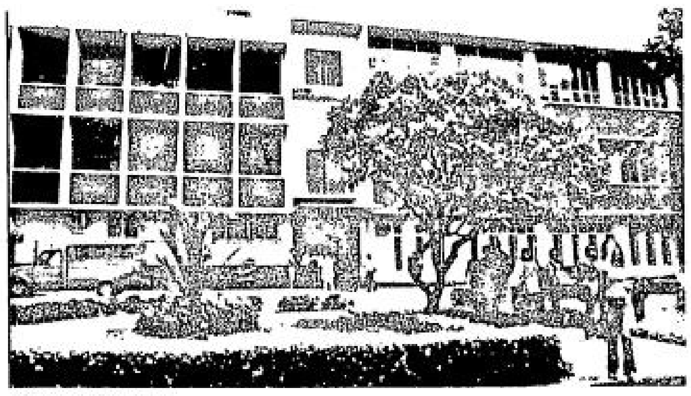

BAKIT PAG SIYA ANG BUMABANAT SA'YO, DI KA SUMISIGAW NG POLICE BRUTALITY?

COMMUNICATIONS Department

ELIAZO Dormitory

Spirits having flown

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent



GONZAGA Hall

A portal to another dimension? A headless priest who walks in the night? Staircases that go on forever? Ateneo has its share of urban legends

AT ATENEO every year, upperclassmen love to scare the new (and vulnerable) freshmen with urban legends that have been passed down from one generation to the next. Some may be plain hearsay, others have clearly been made up for fun. But some may have bases. Undoubtedly, these stories have added flavor and character to the campus. But next time you pass any of the following supposedly haunted buildings at night, bring someone with you. You'll never know.

Xavier Hall

On rainy nights, the administration building is supposedly haunted by a Jesuit. Walking around in the traditional Jesuit garb, this ghostly priest never makes contact with the ground. You don't think that is scary? Well, apparently he doesn't have a head either. After some students encountered this apparition while working late on a school project, the lights in the building have since been rarely turned off at night.

Edsa walk

A student recounts her experience several years ago during Labor Day. There weren't any classes that day, and so the campus was deserted. As she was checking out the bulletin boards along Edsa walk, she heard someone walking toward her. When she turned around, it was one of the Jesuits she knew. At that time she didn't notice anything unusual, as the priest acted like himself: nonchalant and hasty. But the following day, as she got back to the daily grind, she received an e-mail requesting for prayers for that priest's soul. He had passed away three weeks before.

Eliazo Dormitory

For the girls residing in the Eliazo dorm, this story is one reason to go to sleep at least by midnight. Once, at around 3 a.m., a girl was in the study area going about her business when she heard laughter coming from the visitor's lounge. Thinking the sound came from fellow dormers, she continued with her work. Later on, she heard the same laughter and decided to go to the lounge. But when she came there, no one was in sight.

Chemistry Building

The Chemistry building, actually the Philippine Institute for Pure and Applied Sciences (Pipac), is one of the most notoriously haunted places, according to AdMU lore. The building's design supports many of the legends attributed to it. Students say that at night, the oxygen is sucked out of the building, apparently to contain the dangerous chemicals. One urban legend is about a trapped janitor who suffocated due to the vacuum and now haunts the place. Another is about a student who saw an apparition of a suicidal professor slumped on the Pipac's drinking fountain. The latter story is probably related to yet another legend of the headless chemist traversing the building at night.

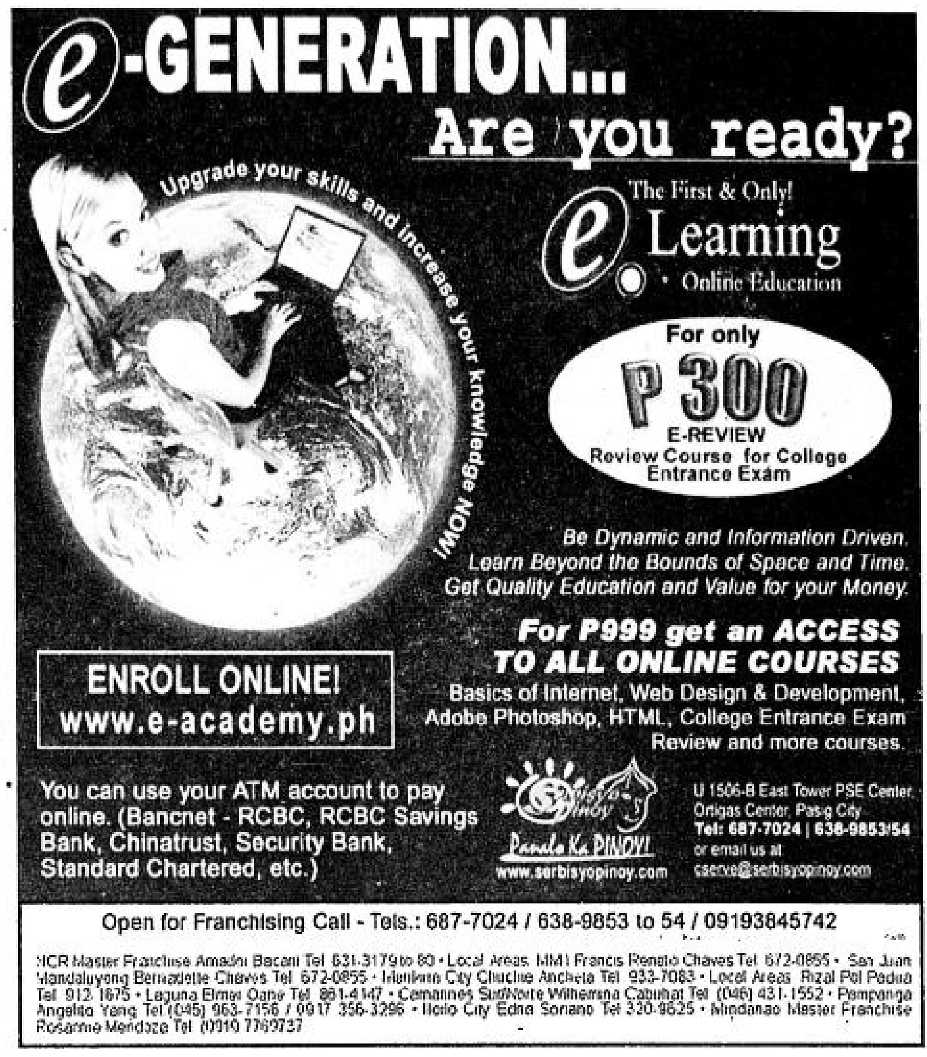
Gonzaga Hall

One of the busiest buildings on campus, Gonzaga Hall houses many of the student organizations. During the day, one may see many students rushing up and down the stairs from a meeting to a class. At night, one may also hear of students rushing down the stairs —stairs that supposedly go on and on forever. One story is of a guy going down from the third floor to the second floor. Try as he might, he kept on ending up on the second floor and couldn't leave the building. The reasons for this strange incident may be traced back to the 1970s, when a Chemistry professor was supposedly stabbed to death at Gonzaga. His body was found in either the third- or fourth-floor bathroom. Legend goes that he haunts the place because he's looking for his murderer, or because he still thinks he's teaching in Ateneo. Former students say the ghost is short and wears glasses.

Communications Department

Of all the places in Ateneo, the Communications Department is the most controversial, probably because the Spirit Questors have visited it and reported some supernatural characters present in the building. Stories have tagged the Communications Studio as an inter-dimensional portal. Dwarves are said to inhabit the place, and many strange incidents have been reported through the years. One story is somewhat similar to the Gonzaga Hall incident. A girl who tried to go out of the building kept on ending up in the same hallway. Another story that has been corroborated by more students is of a night class held by the late Doreen Fernandez. The air-conditioning unit kept on shutting down by itself and the class heard someone flushing a toilet in the women's bathroom, which turned out to be empty. ***With reports from Camille de los Reyes and Ateneans who posted their stories in the forum***

E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com



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Vandalism becomes artistic and respectable

By Tiffany Limsico
2bU! Correspondent

It may sound like a contradiction in terms, but art graffiti is the way of the future

GRAFFITI on a classroom table might have provided a few minutes of amusement to the student. You must admit, though, that the secret loves and hates and other nonsensical scribbling are really an eyesore. But art graffiti over at Ateneo de Manila University is about to change that.

Although it sounds like a contradiction in terms, for Quix Maiquez, a junior, and Pete Gutierrez and Pao Viserio, both sophomores, art graffiti is the way of the future. They may have started with the usual scribbling on their tables during a particularly dull class, but they have long since moved to larger media, including designing backdrops for school events.

Art graffiti is actually known already in the US and Europe, but it remains a novelty in the Philippines and is not widely accepted. The Ateneans think this is due to lack of exposure and monetary support for this kind of endeavor. Compared to other forms, art graffiti is rarely censored by society and cannot be as easily distorted since its message is often frank and straightforward.

But when does art graffiti become vandalism? How do we differentiate what beautifies and what merely destroys?

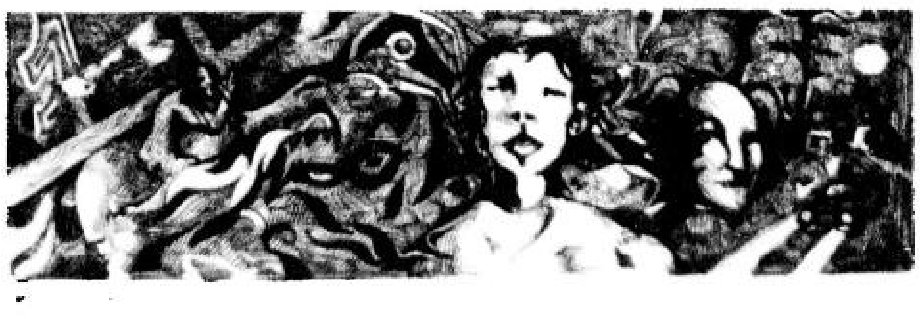
Maiquez thinks vandalism is usually "*mga* tags (names) *ng mga* clans *o* frats, *yung mga wala lang talagang magawa.*" Gutierrez says, "*Madali lang makita. May* passion *yung pagkagawa. Yun lang yung* medium *niya, hindi* canvas *pero* alternative mediums." Viserio adds, "*Sa* graffiti *kita mo talaga yung* detail *at yung* effort *na nilagay ng* artist. *Yung* vandalism, purpose *niya*, destruction. Graffiti is art, an expression of the artist's self."

Although art graffiti is usually done on walls or bridges, and privately owned structures, the artist has to get permits for what he wants to do.

Gutierrez believes that "*dapat may magsimula. Sana kami iyon.*" They are not just wishing to be the first but actually doing something about it.

In January 2003 at Ateneo, the group will have what Maiquez calls "a humble beginning" in an event titled "The Big Bad Wall." An 8 x 60-ft plywood wall painted black will be installed and used for the first-ever art graffiti tournament for all interested Ateneo students. The group hopes it will set a new trend. "*Gusto naming makilala* as the pioneers of the Ateneo graffiti scene, *o mas maganda kung* Manila graffiti scene," they kid.

Some people may have reservations about the legitimacy of this form, so the three pioneers let the art speak for itself in the picture below.



at the children's wear department
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Ruffled tops over carefree denims
We've got it all for you!
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Acing the Acet

By Margot Aissa C. Tan
2bU! Correspondent

IN ALL probability, the Acet (Ateneo College Entrance Test) will be the toughest, most nerve-racking and heart-wrenching entrance examination anybody has to take in his or her entire life. The good news is, the examinee is not expected to do well in it.

Even "brainiacs" have been known to leave the examination rooms looking disheveled, even close to tears. When the time's up, the examinee probably has not even had a chance to set eyes on the actual questions. Harassed and in shock, he realizes he has peed halfway in his pants. He leaves the room convinced that he is "f------g stupid."

But people who have to take the Acet have no need to panic. While it's perfectly normal to feel nervous about the test, they should not let themselves get carried away. There's no viable way of cramming for a college entrance exam. With the limited time, the best that one can do is relax and study. It may be difficult to remember everything learned in high school but crying and beating one's self up will not make things better. But the following tips might ease the pressure on Acet examinees:

Know your Math fundamentals. Brush up on your high school Algebra and practice as much as you can. Familiarize yourself with standard formulas, types of questions and patterns in solutions. Concentrate on word problems. A basic, working knowledge of both logarithms and trigonometry would be a definite advantage.

Know your English. Understand the concept of subject-verb agreement. Build a good vocabulary base by reading extensively. If you find the mall more appealing than the school library (like me), you may read just a few of Jessica Zafra's "Twisted" articles or watch Alicia Silverstone's "Clueless."

Don't study, or at least, don't overdo it. While reviewing better prepares you for the test ahead, set your books aside and have a cup of coffee with your *barkada* if intensive study puts undue and unwelcome pressure on you. Straining your nerves to the absolute limit can leave you open to psychological and emotional trauma later on.

Manage your time. Don't stay too long on a test item. All the questions in the Acet, regardless of how difficult or easy, will get the same points. If you don't know the answer, make an intelligent guess by eliminating the choices you think are wrong. Quite often, the first answer that comes to mind is the right one, so go with your instincts.

You can't study for abstract reasoning. It's a nonverbal measure of your reasoning ability through visual configurations. You have to be able to recognize and distinguish series and patterns, and perceive relationships among figures. Just try to think as logically as you can. Be careful, check for similarities and differences, and take note of certain details that may be the keys to solving the mind-boggling query.

Read up a bit on general information. There's a short portion in the Acet that will be familiar to "Trivial Pursuit" fanatics. Questions can range from current events to Philippine authors/artists and their respective *obra maestras*.

If you start seeing your life flash before your very eyes, get a grip. Calm down. The last thing you need to do while taking an exam is to worry. Breathe in and out, practice guided imagery, visualization, or do repeats of tense and relax techniques to soothe your nerves. Remember that everyone else is also having a hard time even though they may look calm and collected.

Get a good night's sleep. It's physically taxing to take entrance exams. If you've taken the Upcat (University of the Philippines College Admission Test), you'll know what I mean. Sitting on your butt for four straight hours can be unbearable. Make sure you're in tip-top shape and in prime condition when you take the test. Your mind works better if it's clear and has had sufficient rest.

Never leave a number blank. The Acet is not the Upcat—it's not right minus wrong.

Eat a moderate breakfast. Don't eat too much or you'll end up feeling lethargic and sleepy. Raising your sugar levels to a surreal high may cause you to doze off. On the other hand, starving yourself will not help either.

Be punctual. Be early. You cannot afford to be late as you have to look for your exam room and listen to instructions.

Bring pencils, erasers and other stuff you need. Wear a reliable watch. Although you may be in a rush, don't forget to bring the things you will most definitely be needing. You won't want to step into the room without your exam permit, for instance.

Don't cheat. Whether or not you get caught is not the issue. If you get into a school by cheating, you will eventually suffer for it. Don't sell yourself short just to get a few extra points in.

Make do with the limited space in the provided scratch papers for your solutions. Don't spend precious minutes erasing your previous solutions to do new ones. Write legibly and be as organized as possible.

You don't have to enroll in review classes. Grab a copy of entrance exam workbooks and practice on them instead of enrolling in review classes. If you feel the need to enroll in review classes, the Ahead Review Center, from the positive feedback of students now in college, might be a good place for you. Some even say that practice questions in this tutorial service is very similar to Ateneo's actual entrance exam.

Pray. It wouldn't hurt to ask His help. Trust that His love can work in silent and mysterious ways.

Looking for thrills on Saturday nights

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mabino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,
This town seems a little lacking in terms of places to go on Saturday nights. What are your weekends like in an ideal month?

J.D.

You mentioned ideal. So, that means a month when everything that I'd like to happen will happen, right?

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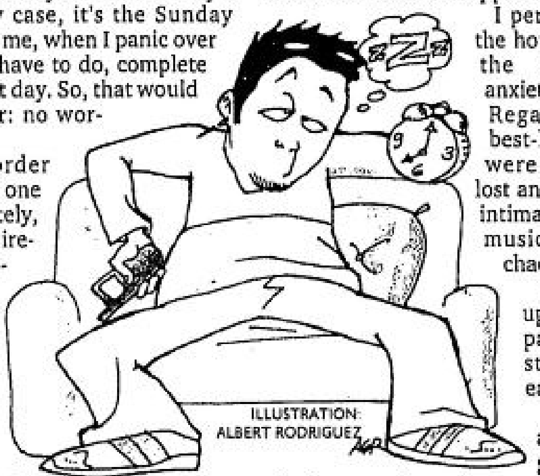

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

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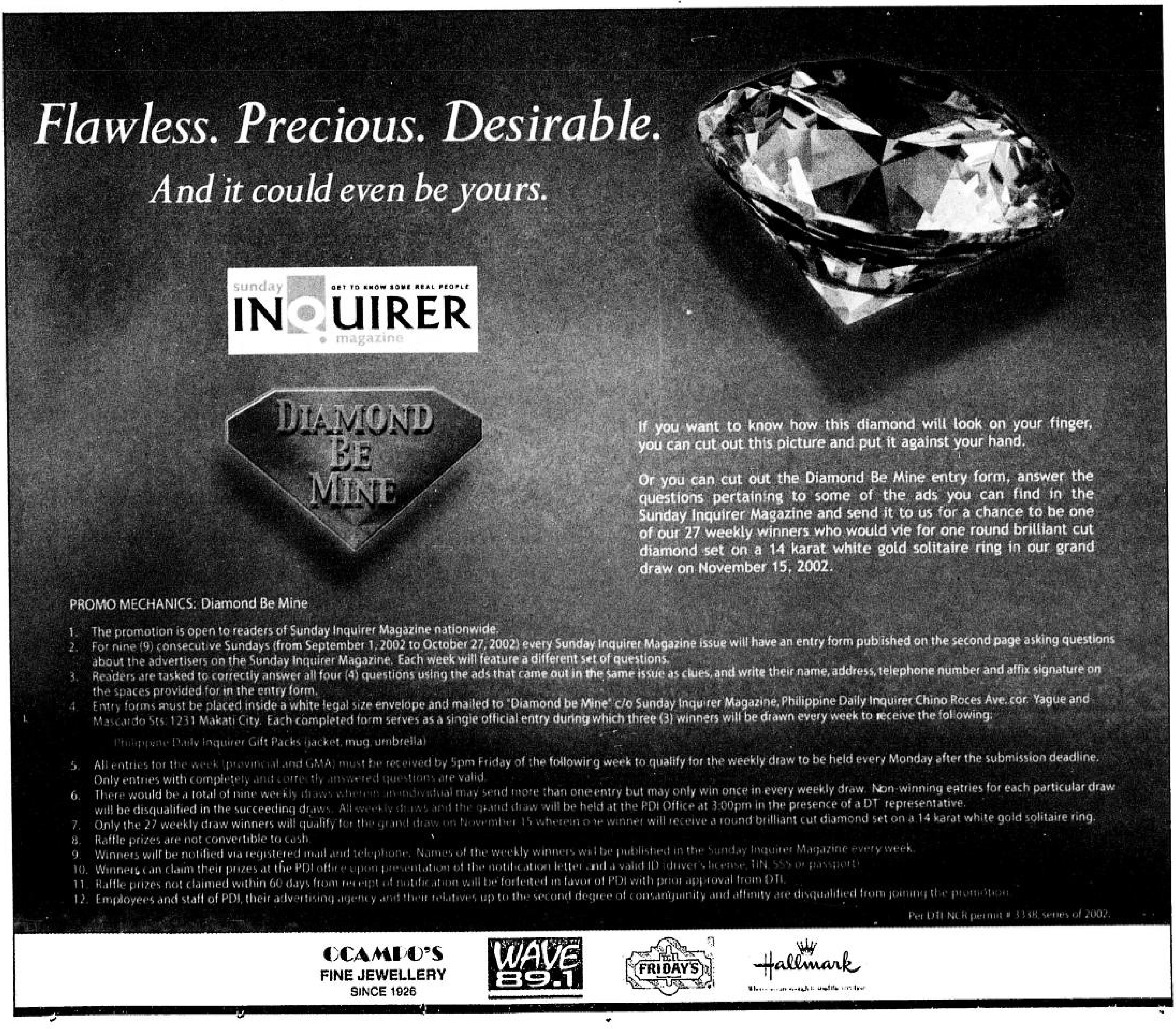

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sunday INQUIRER magazine GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

DIAMOND BE MINE

If you want to know how this diamond will look on your finger, you can cut out this picture and put it against your hand.

Or you can cut out the Diamond Be Mine entry form, answer the questions pertaining to some of the ads you can find in the Sunday Inquirer Magazine and send it to us for a chance to be one of our 27 weekly winners who would vie for one round brilliant cut diamond set on a 14 karat white gold solitaire ring in our grand draw on November 15, 2002.

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Per DTI-NCR permit # 3338, series of 2002.

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Acing the Acet

By Margot Aissa C. Tan
2bU! Correspondent

IN ALL probability, the Acet (Ateneo College Entrance Test) will be the toughest, most nerve-racking and heart-wrenching entrance examination anybody has to take in his or her entire life. The good news is, the examinee is not expected to do well in it.

Even "brainiacs" have been known to leave the examination rooms looking disheveled, even close to tears. When the time's up, the examinee probably has not even had a chance to set eyes on the actual questions. Harassed and in shock, he realizes he has peed halfway in his pants. He leaves the room convinced that he is "f------g stupid."

But people who have to take the Acet have no need to panic. While it's perfectly normal to feel nervous about the test, they should not let themselves get carried away. There's no viable way of cramming for a college entrance exam. With the limited time, the best that one can do is relax and study. It may be difficult to remember everything learned in high school but crying and beating one's self up will not make things better. But the following tips might ease the pressure on Acet examinees:

Know your Math fundamentals. Brush up on your high school Algebra and practice as much as you can. Familiarize yourself with standard formulas, types of questions and patterns in solutions. Concentrate on word problems. A basic, working knowledge of both logarithms and trigonometry would be a definite advantage.

Know your English. Understand the concept of subject-verb agreement. Build a good vocabulary base by reading extensively. If you find the mall more appealing than the school library (like me), you may read just a few of Jessica Zafra's "Twisted" articles or watch Alicia Silverstone's "Clueless."

Don't study, or at least, don't overdo it. While reviewing better prepares you for the test ahead, set your books aside and have a cup of coffee with your *barkada* if intensive study puts undue and unwelcome pressure on you. Straining your nerves to the absolute limit can leave you open to psychological and emotional trauma later on.

Manage your time. Don't stay too long on a test item. All the questions in the Acet, regardless of how difficult or easy, will get the same points. If you don't know the answer, make an intelligent guess by eliminating the choices you think are wrong. Quite often, the first answer that comes to mind is the right one, so go with your instincts.

You can't study for abstract reasoning. It's a nonverbal measure of your reasoning ability through visual configurations. You have to be able to recognize and distinguish series and patterns, and perceive relationships among figures. Just try to think as logically as you can. Be careful, check for similarities and differences, and take note of certain details that may be the keys to solving the mind-boggling query.

Read up a bit on general information. There's a short portion in the Acet that will be familiar to "Trivial Pursuit" fanatics. Questions can range from current events to Philippine authors/artists and their respective *obra maestras*.

If you start seeing your life flash before your very eyes, get a grip. Calm down. The last thing you need to do while taking an exam is to worry. Breathe in and out, practice guided imagery, visualization, or do repeats of tense and relax techniques to soothe your nerves. Remember that everyone else is also having a hard time even though they may look calm and collected.

Get a good night's sleep. It's physically taxing to take entrance exams. If you've taken the Upcat (University of the Philippines College Admission Test), you'll know what I mean. Sitting on your butt for four straight hours can be unbearable. Make sure you're in tip-top shape and in prime condition when you take the test. Your mind works better if it's clear and has had sufficient rest.

Never leave a number blank. The Acet is not the Upcat—it's not right minus wrong.

Eat a moderate breakfast. Don't eat too much or you'll end up feeling lethargic and sleepy. Raising your sugar levels to a surreal high may cause you to doze off. On the other hand, starving yourself will not help either.

Be punctual. Be early. You cannot afford to be late as you have to look for your exam room and listen to instructions.

Bring pencils, erasers and other stuff you need. Wear a reliable watch. Although you may be in a rush, don't forget to bring the things you will most definitely be needing. You won't want to step into the room without your exam permit, for instance.

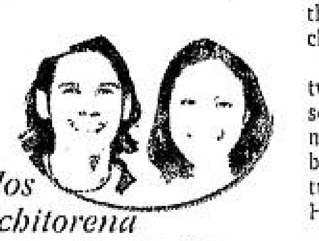
Don't cheat. Whether or not you get caught is not the issue. If you get into a school by cheating, you will eventually suffer for it. Don't sell yourself short just to get a few extra points in.

Make do with the limited space in the provided scratch papers for your solutions. Don't spend precious minutes erasing your previous solutions to do new ones. Write legibly and be as organized as possible.

You don't have to enroll in review classes. Grab a copy of entrance exam workbooks and practice on them instead of enrolling in review classes. If you feel the need to enroll in review classes, the Ahead Review Center, from the positive feedback of students now in college, might be a good place for you. Some even say that practice questions in this tutorial service is very similar to Ateneo's actual entrance exam.

Pray. It wouldn't hurt to ask His help. Trust that His love can work in silent and mysterious ways.

Looking for thrills on Saturday nights



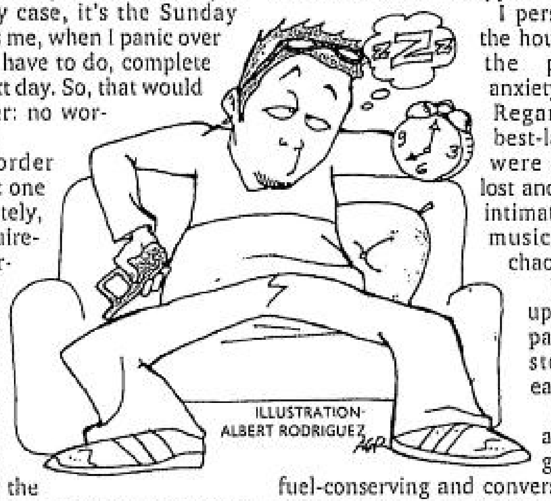
Carlos Garchitorena & September Mabino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,
This town seems a little lacking in terms of places to go on Saturday nights. What are your weekends like in an ideal month?

J.D.

You mentioned ideal. So, that means a month when everything that I'd like to happen will happen, right?

Well, for one month, I'd like to have my Sundays free, except for the 6 p.m. Mass. I am a Catholic school girl at heart and a choir member. But aside from that, I don't want to worry about anything, especially my Mondays and the deadlines that always seem to accompany them. The popular opinion is that Monday is the worst day of the week; in my case, it's the Sunday evening that kills me, when I panic over the things that I have to do, complete or submit the next day. So, that would be the first order: no worries on Sundays.



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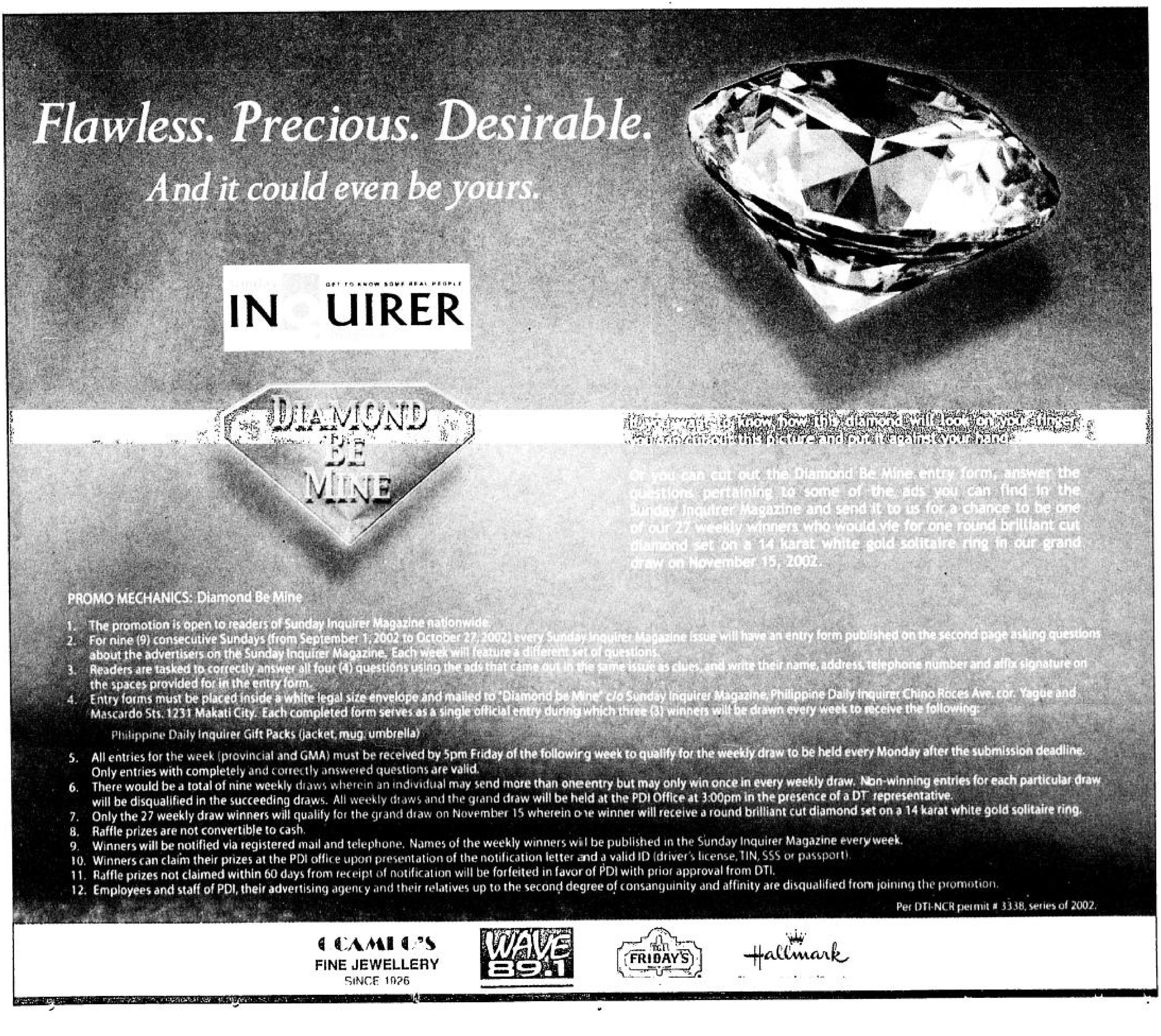

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INQUIRER

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CAMILO'S FINE JEWELLERY SINCE 1926
WAVE 89.1
T.G.I. FRIDAY'S
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Campus Investigative Journalism Awards now accepting entries

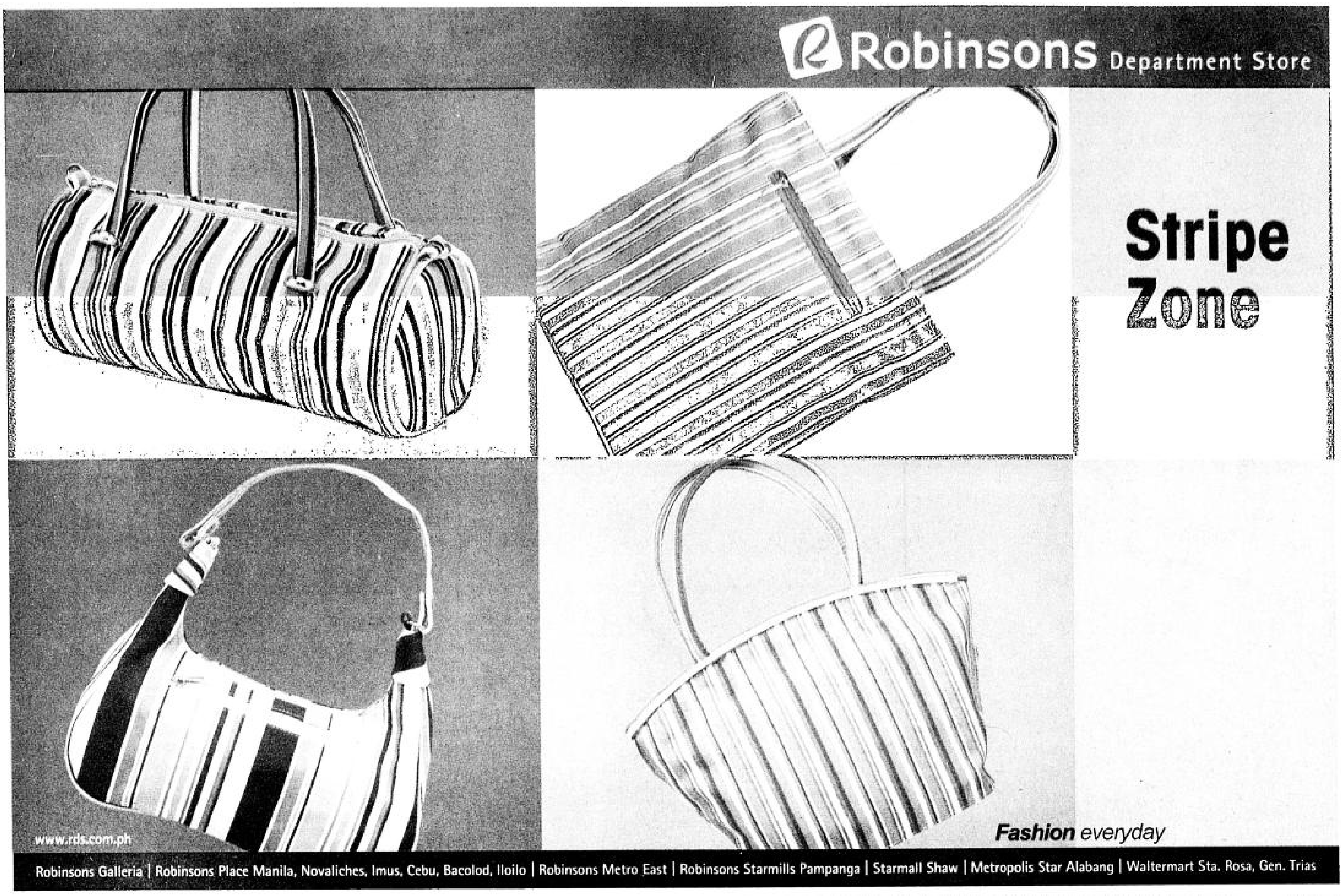
IN CELEBRATION of the campus press in the country, the Varsitarian, the 74-year-old official student publication of the Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas, is holding the 2nd National Campus Investigative Journalism Award.

The award, established by former Varsitarian editor in chief and Washington-based legal editor Julio S. Macaranas Jr. in honor of his late mother, Mercedez Macaranas, seeks to foster responsible investigative journalism in the campus press.

The award is open to all student publications in the college level nationwide. An investigative entry must have been written either by a writer or by a team (whole publication) and published between October 2001 and September 2002. The entry should come with an endorsement from the publication's adviser/s or by a Journalism or Communications professor.

The writer/s of the winning report will receive P30,000. The publication will receive P20,000. Four honorable mention award winners will receive P5,000.

Deadline for submission of entries is on Oct. 9 at 10 p.m. For inquiries, visit the Varsitarian office, Rm. 112, UST Main Bldg, España, Manila; or www.varsitarian.com/inkblots/ncija.htm. Call 731-3101 local 8235.



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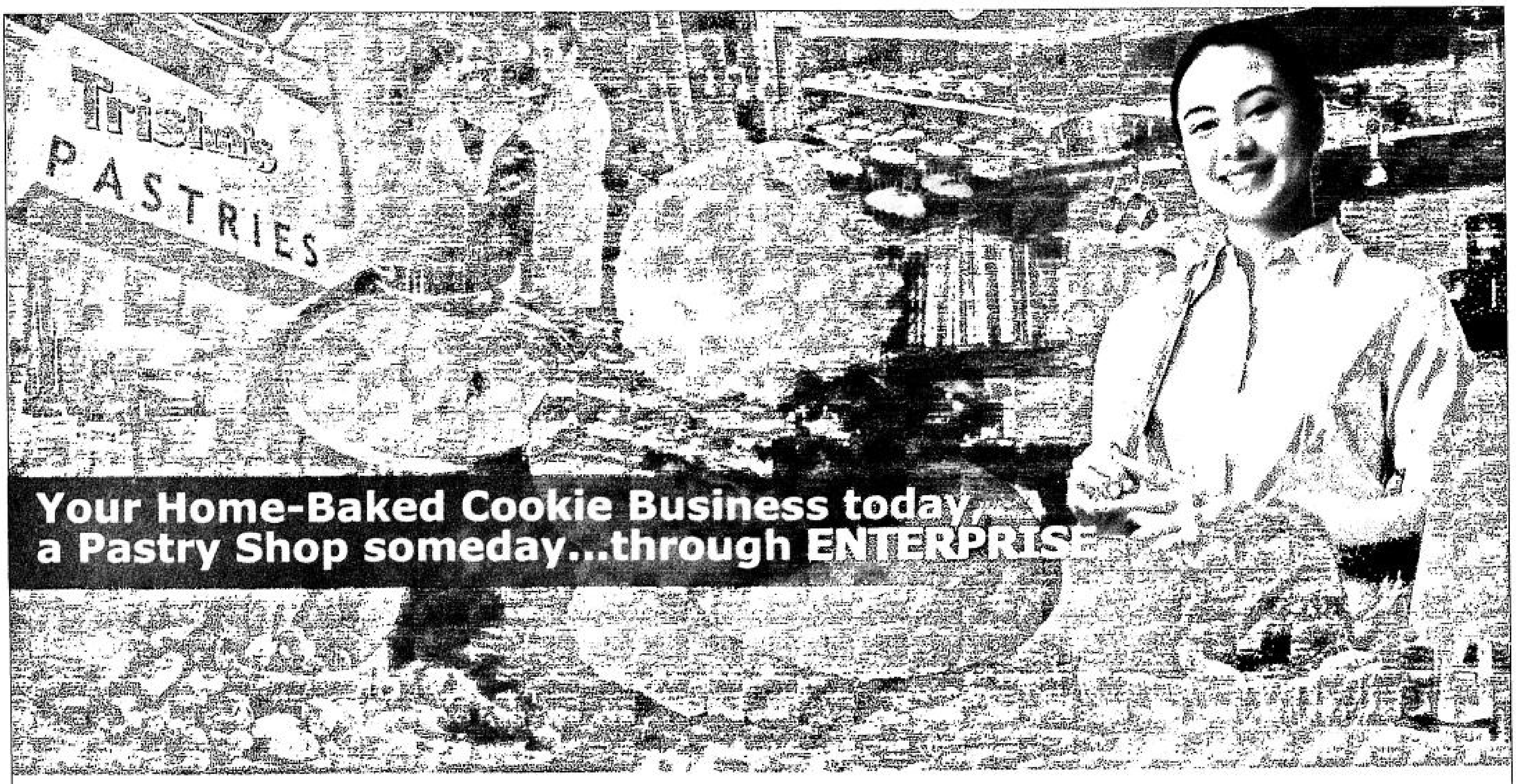
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Celebrity Eagles combine show biz and studies

By Saleema Devi Refran and Melissa Telan
2bU! Correspondents

POP QUIZ: What do veteran actress and television talk show host Janice de Belen, former "G-mik" heartthrob Miko Samson and former "TGIS" love team Dingdong Dantes and Antoinette Taus have in common? They are all true-blue Ateneans.

So how do they cope with the pressures of show biz and the challenges of being students of one of the country's most prestigious universities?

Describe your first day in Ateneo.

Janice (J): Okay *naman, nakakapagod*, but it was fun. The people are okay. *Tingin ko*, at first, snobbish *'yung mga tao dito sa* Loyola. *Pero hindi naman*. I was so surprised.

Antoinette (A): I was really, really nervous. You're not sure how people are going treat you, what they'll say or even if anyone's gonna talk to you. So it was really nerve-racking but, at the same time, it took away all of the bad things you thought of. *Kasi* people gave the impression before that Ateneans would be stuck-up and *sosyal*. But I found out that Ateneans were really down-to-earth.

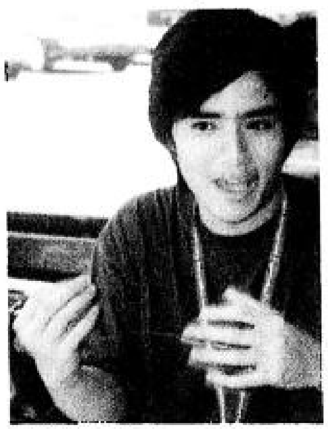
Dingdong (D): Me, I felt old. *Kasi* when I entered, my classmates from Ateneo (high school) were already two years ahead of me because I transferred from San Beda. But still, it was fun. The people were welcoming and the teachers were also nice.

Miko (M): College? I think it was one of those things that I was prepared for. It seemed natural to me. The environment seemed like something I knew for a long time. I wasn't really too frazzled or anything. Was I excited? Yes, I was. It's something new *pa rin*. It's a new ball game and everything.

Can you share any Ateneo anecdotes?

J: During Orsem (orientation seminar for incoming freshmen), my TNT (upperclassperson guide) approached me and said, *'Yung isang* taga-logcom (logistics committee) *may* crush *sa iyo.' Tapos pinakilala niya siya sa akin*, and told him, 'O *ayan ah, ayan*.' (Laughs). I promised him (the logcom guy) I'd greet him on TV, *tapos grineet ko nga siya*.

ANTOINETTE Taus and Dingdong Dantes



MIKO Samson

JANICE de Belen

M: In my org (organization), we have this thing they call "MEA Babe." It's a beauty pageant where they get one guy from each class and dress him up like a girl. They almost got me. For a week or two, people were bugging me about it. My bloc-mates were bugging me about it. "MEA babe *ka na!*" I would say "Heh! *Hindi!*"(laughs). I'm fine with things like that *pero* you don't have to bug me about it.

Do you have an Atenean crush?

J: *Maraming* cute, but they're all half my age—young enough to be my kids.

D: Mikee Cojuangco

M: *Marami!* (Smiles) For a while, I had a crush on somebody in my English bloc. Then there's a girl I see everyday that I'm starting to have a crush on. For some reason we always cross paths. I see her in the lib (library), in the corridors. I don't know her name… I'm not sure if this is cheesy or anything, but there's also this girl, actually group of girls, who passed by me when I was applying *pa lang*. And, just like in the movies, the world seemed to really slow down and there seemed to be haloes around these people. *Parang*, "Wow!"

What do you love most about Ateneo?

J: I love the feeling of being ordinary. I feel that in Ateneo.

D: The environment—the trees, wide parking spaces, everything.

M: I like the people and I like what they do. I like being in a place that keeps me on my toes… I like the environment. I like walking *kasi* around the campus. It makes me think. The place is peaceful and here, you can practically walk up to anybody and talk to him/her. I can share a table with a stranger in the café and before you know it, we're having a conversation. (Smiles)

Hate?

A: Not enough cuts allowed. (Smiles)

M: Well, there are a lot of things I hate about Ateneo. One thing, it doesn't snow here. (Grins) I have a thing *kasi* for snow *eh*. (Laughs) Anyway, sometimes I feel that this school is too conservative about so many things. We're not as aggressive as I would have preferred, like in investments and in developing new stuff. We do have a system that works now, but we're far from perfect and there's still a long way to go. There's still room for improvement. Also, I hate the benching idea. I don't see the point in it *kasi*. Why evict somebody who's just sitting on a bench? No offense meant to upperclassmen, but I just don't like the idea. If those guys were in the other person's place, I'm sure that they wouldn't like it.

Fears about college?

J: *Syempre*, I still fear that there might come a time when I have to make a tough choice— to give it [college] up. It's really *mahirap eh. Ngayon, hindi ko pa nararamdaman kasi maganda 'yung* schedule *ko*, but what if *nasa* lottery (registration process for Ateneo upperclasspersons) *na ako*.

M: I guess my only fear would be that I get too immersed in everything and yet miss out on everything also.

If there is one thing you would like to do before graduation, what would it be?

J: I'd like to act in a play. I was honestly thinking of doing "Isang Buhay sa Tambakan" (a recent production of Tanghalang Ateneo, where Janice is a member) *kaya lang, mahirap mag*-budget *ng* time given [that] I work, I have kids and I'm a freshman. But I'd really like to be able do one, maybe the next one.

M: I'd like to come up with something new or a major innovation…*basta* contribute something big to society or leave a legacy of some sort. Maybe I could also write a book. (Smiles)

Being an Atenean means…

J: Being disciplined, doing hard work and being good in Math.

D: Being simple yet powerful. For instance, if you put an Atenean in a room filled with other students, *siguro* he'd be the quiet type, the shy type. *Pero* eventually, *siya ang magli* lead.

A: Knowing how to balance your life. You know how to have fun, but at the same time, you also know how to work hard in school.

M: Being an Atenean means being a blue eagle. You have to learn how to fly and to fall once or twice.

E-mail the authors at melissatelan@yahoo.com (Melissa) and s_a_l_e_e_m_a@yahoo.com (Saleema)

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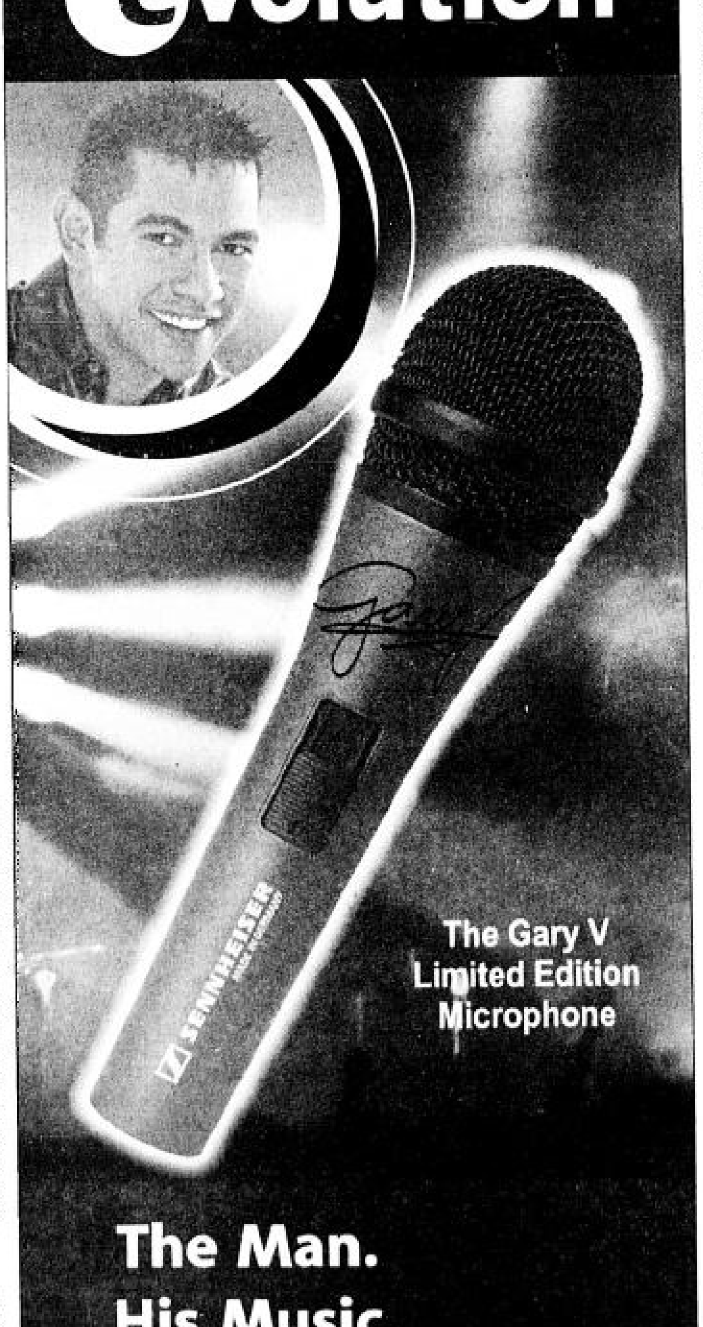

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Blue Eagle for a day

Story on page E2

2bU!'s non-Atenean staffers get a feel of the Katipunan life and find it—liberating?

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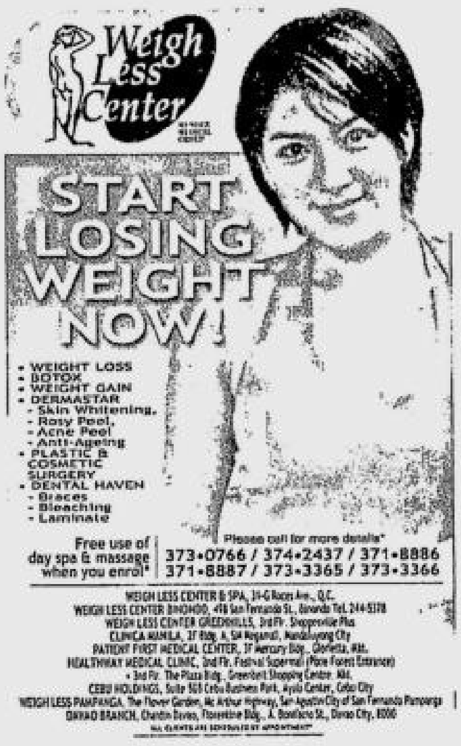

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SMART

Blue Eagle for a day

No-uniform day

WHY aren't you wearing a uniform?" I asked my older brother as he proclaimed that he was ready to go to "school."

"In college, you don't need uniforms," he said matter-of-factly. "And you get to pick what classes to take, and what days you want to go to school."

I was in second grade that time, and I was convinced that college was the coolest grade to be in.

Alas, here I am, a college junior, still wearing a uniform. And no, I don't get to pick what classes I want to take. And forget about getting rid of Saturday classes.

I'll come clean. While all my high school friends were sweating to get into UP, I was dreaming of entering the Ateneo. It wasn't because two of my siblings practically have a Blue Eagle tattooed somewhere on their bodies, but simply because I loved everything about their campus.

Of course, I could have been jaded, since I hardly went there if not to pick up my brother. When I didn't pass the entrance test, I bawled my eyes out and practically marched to the Admissions Office with scrapbooks of my work and about a hundred-and-one reasons I could be a "man for others."

When a choice was laid before me, I let my pride get in the way and let my "I will have a 'creative shot' in my college yearbook!" dreams go. Since then, the closest I've been to the Ateneo have been my weekend dog-walks with friends.

So imagine how giddy I got when Pam told me we were supposed to sit in some classes for the 2bU! Ateneo issue. I asked all my Atenean friends from different colleges and batches what their classes were and if I could sit in.

My friends' classes? Investment Management, Embryology, Japanese Culture, History, Literature and Creativity. There was no way I was going to work with numbers and stare at laboratory tools, and I had had enough of History and Literature back at my school. So I agreed to take the Japanese Culture and Creativity classes.

My friend Andrea, a college junior taking up Interdisciplinary Studies, kept insisting her Japanese class was boring. I was thinking, after sitting through an entire semester with professors who had the uncanny ability to make me doze off the minute they opened their mouth, an hour with *her* prof wouldn't be so bad. I was wrong.

Compared to my class of around 45 students (whom I am stuck with for the next two years since we're a block section), their class had an attendance of around 15 students. We just discussed about the god Aum, and were dismissed.

I met up with a friend from my school, Sam, who agreed to accompany me to the Creativity class with the Communication Arts students. I gamely participated in his first group work: come up with a famous person corresponding to the initials he wrote on the board. Our group had the most number of names, was awarded a box of brownies, and we then proceeded to talk about metaphors.

Compared to the Japanese class I had earlier, the Creativity class was definitely more upbeat, more interesting, and.;. more uptight. While I sat in front and gamely answered the questions thrown my way, I noticed most of the students, who huddled in corners or just stared at the teacher or whoever else was reciting, were pretty quiet. Not to say they didn't come up with great metaphors. We were asked to finish the metaphors he shot at us, and one nonchalantly said, "*Ang pag-ibig ay parang sinulid, dahil pinapasok sa karayom.*"

Sam and I left the class after the first break to "tour" the school by ourselves. I would say hi to every professor I see (who in turn would say hi after I gave them an ear-splitting "Hi, Ma'am!"), and Sam just *had* to use the washroom at almost every building we entered. We'd walk by the famous "benches" and try to make out which bench was which (the nerdy bench, the band bench, etc.), then debate over who were underdressed and who were overdressed (it was a *school*, not a *party*). After about an hour of going around the campus, we finally headed over to a café in Loyola Heights.

So how was my day as an Atenean? Let me put it this way. I know some people from that school who would proclaim that "you never were an Atenean, you always *are*," while there are some who would gladly set the statue of St. Ignatius on fire.

Me? I guess the grass will always be greener on the other side. And while I admit I do cheer for the Blue Eagles whenever it's UAAP season, I probably was never meant to get into Ateneo. I guess that way it'll still be up on a pedestal for me (even though my Atenean friends who lack school spirit could gladly give me a hundred and one reasons I *shouldn't* put their school on a pedestal).

But it still irks me that I still have to wear a uniform.

Maui Reyes

From formal to laid-back

WE hadn't started any class yet or reached the campus, but I had already noted certain things: it could get hot at the Ateneo and they don't have a dress code.

I accompanied Cher in two of her classes, which were French and Comm 11.

I had dreaded going to French class since I didn't know a thing except for a couple of bad words and excerpts from tarty pop songs. "This is going to be like Chinese class," I told myself as Cher's teacher asked her students in French the books they had promised to donate. It was like Chinese class indeed with the usual conversations and the class reading like robots. As usual I almost slept. I noticed why I kept on shifting uncomfortably in my seat: my backside had been used to the cushioned seats of the UA&P.

After an hour, a dozen Altoids and two rounds of Snake in my phone that kept me awake, the class was dismissed. We proceeded to the parking lot where one of Cher's blockmate's car was waiting. "The class in is the other side of the campus," she explained. The longest trip I have to make in school is when I go to the mall and have lunch. My campus is only a fraction of Ateneo.

We arrived at the Comm building, which looked like a nursery school. I got to chat with some of Cher's blockmates and they were very warm. Prof. Andrew Ty could easily pass for a student since he was in jeans and a black shirt. I found the lecture about different kinds of relationships interesting.

Finally, class ended and we went around the campus. After only a few minutes, I was sweating, but I didn't mind it much since the campus was pleasant to explore.

Cher laughed when she saw my Ateneo vs. UA&P chart. She noticed my comparisons were based on the size of the campus, people, and atmosphere; nothing was related to academics. So, it's small campus vs. big campus, big population vs. small population, conservative vs. ultra-conservative, etc. "*Babaw ba?*" I asked Cher.

I guess, the things I'm missing out on are the opportunity to meet more people in my own school, having the extra school spirit when it comes to sports, the freedom to do a couple of things, and having that laid-back feeling.

But I guess I appreciate the little things about my school. I don't have to fan myself constantly, line up for food all the time in the cafeteria, or walk an extra mile just to have something to eat. And maybe I prefer the dragon as school mascot rather than the eagle.

Tammy David

Perfect day for salted duck eggs

BEFORE 2bU!'s tour of Ateneo, I had only been there once—about three years ago. It was summer then, and a friend of mine sneaked us in for a round of basketball at the covered courts.

It didn't really make much of a difference where we played at the time.

We could have shot hoops in Siberia and none of us would have said a thing. All I cared about was talking trash and getting a leather orb through a metal ring.

To some extent, I guess I was a bit oblivious of my surroundings. This time around, I was hoping to change that.

I never knew much about Ateneo. And this somewhat piqued my curiosity. Most of the instances I came across the name involved a scoreboard.

Coming out of high school, I concluded that it was a place I couldn't afford to go to. I didn't even take the Ateneo entrance exam in my senior year of high school. I slacked off for most of my four-year stay in high school. And it didn't take a rocket scientist to figure that I had neither the diligence nor the money to make the cut.

I came in late to meet the other correspondents at about 10:30 a.m. After I apologized for my tardiness, we moved to an eatery near the tennis courts. "Manang's", I think it was called.

I was surprised that the place looked like a *carinderia*. Judging from the Ateneans I met outside, I could have sworn that Ateneo students never frequented places like this.

But I couldn't conceal my smile when I saw that *itlog na pula* was a bestseller in the place. Ateneo has some virtues to make up for setting up those elitist benches, after all.

Later, we decided to tag along with Melissa in her Creativity class. It was undoubtedly the most fun I've had in a class in a long while. It had the feel of a writing workshop, which I hope to become a part of before I finish school at UST.

The class started with a game in which we had to think of a name from a combination of two letters. The more obscure the name, the better. If another group got your name, no point would be awarded.

Before my group's brainstorming session, I thought the exercise was easy.

But a few minutes into it, I couldn't come up with anything. Before the allotted time ended, I finally contributed Cyrus Baguio's name. Good thing I wrote about him in a sports article in the Varsitarian, UST's school paper, the day before.

The professor caught my attention with the first example in his simile exercise. "*Ang problema ay parang teddy bear... kadalasan ibang tao ang nagbibigay.*" Soon after, I was raising my hand to answer his queries, something I rarely do in my countless Biology classes.

We ended with an exercise that had us applying the concept of one thing to solve a dilemma. The teacher threw me the concept of "volleyball," which I promptly applied to the La Salle-Ateneo rivalry. Of course, the two schools are better known as rivals in basketball, but for the class' purposes, my use of volleyball to reflect the proverbial rivalry between the two schools would do.

I said then that I reckoned that the rivalry was actually good for the popularity of the UAAP. And just as a volleyball went back and forth in a game, it would be better if no one dominated the rivalry.

Christian Bautista

Feeling it 'like'

IT would be unfair for me to tell you what it feels like to be an Atenean. First of all, I didn't become one, and I don't think I'll ever be (although I'm sure the feeling's nice). A half-day in the Blue Eagles' headquarters certainly doesn't grant me the bragging rights to carry the school's colors. Not that I was offered, but you know...

Anyhow, a half-day isn't exactly bad especially for someone who hasn't even been there, ever. Everything I saw in the campus was a definite first for me, so I was practically wide-eyed most of the time.

Like how embarrassing it was to walk all the way from Gate 3 to Xavier Hall. Man, these students *do* have cars, I'm telling you. Lots of them.

Like no one sits on the grass. Just wondering why...

Like seeing the infamous elitist bench. From what I've heard through the grapevine, the supposedly rich, good-looking mainstays of this area glare at anyone who dares to parade in front of them. Not true. They only looked at me from head to foot.

Like using immaculate toilets. Coming from a state university, it's unusual to have clean toilets. In Ateneo, there's even one that allots space for your things above the urinal. Wow!

Like being able to enjoy sitting through a three-hour class. The Creativity class I took was like drinking my first beer; I will never forget it.

Like no one mentions "like" a lot. You know, people who, like, contort their lips and, like, make certain words, as an excuse for their, like, vocabulary delinquency... Ateneans speak really clearly!

Like they are a bit over-concerned with the Ateneo-La Salle rivalry. La Salle is their rival? Oh right, in the UAAP!

Like it's pointless to be carrying stereotypes of Ateneo with you, or of anything or anyone for that matter. You enroll in school, learn, make friends, study hard, have fun and graduate. Really, that's all what it's all about.

Jason Doplito

Preparing for my takeoff

By Lisa S. Marfori Sobreviñas
2bU! Correspondent

"WHY the Ateneo?" many people ask me. "Why not?" I always proudly retort.

I had placed broadcast communications as my first choice in UP Diliman and I got in. Happiest for me was my father. It had always been his dream that his kids go to UP. I couldn't understand why he wanted me to go to UP when he himself studied college at the Ateneo. And then it dawned on me that dad took up law in UP, that was why it was so close to his heart.

You will understand then why I feel that somehow I disappointed my father when I chose to study in the Ateneo instead. But everyone in my family has been very supportive. They told me, "Go where you will be happy, where your heart leads you." Today, I'm in my third year taking up AB Communication, my first choice, and I'm having a wonderful time.

I didn't go to the Ateneo to escape the *pagkamasa* of UP. I didn't go to the Ateneo because I'm *sosyal*, *maarte* and *elitista*. I didn't go to the Ateneo because I felt I'd have a harder time coping with the stiff academic competition in UP. I didn't go to the Ateneo because I was scared of facing the environment of UP. I can be *masa* and I fit perfectly with the common folk whom I ride the jeep or FX with.

Impressive

Because of my childhood dream to be called an Atenean and to sing "Blue Eagle the King" with my elder brother, I chose the Ateneo over all the other universities I took entrance exams in. I have always wanted a Catholic education and I am getting that (and more) from the Ateneo.

The Liberal Arts program of the Ateneo is most impressive. And, of course, there is the "magis," Ateneo's man-for-others tradition.

There is something about the tradition that sets the Ateneo education apart from other universities. I am proud to be an Atenean because of this tradition. Just two weeks ago, a Jesuit brother gave a talk on this tradition to Ateneo freshmen. He simply put it as something that makes you and other people happy.

Over and above the outstanding academic records and awards that Ateneans are known for, I feel proud to be an Atenean because we also have something to show for in the "heart" department, not just the "brains" department. (Okay, so there are some Ateneans who have no heart but I think all schools have their share of such students.)

Journey

When I was younger and a naïve freshmen, I always thought of my college years as a journey of discovery, one that would lead me to Lux in Domino. Being God's light in the world, I was once told, is what being an Atenean is all about. And I believe that.

Of course, the journey is not just about discovering one's self but others as well. Here, I continue to learn to be a real person, to be real, to just *be*. (I learned that mostly in Philo 101.) Here I slowly realize that my years of stay at the Ateneo is but a preparation for greater challenges and greater heights that I must conquer in the real world.

I always like to think that the Ateneo is where I continue to prepare for my impending "takeoff." After my parents' instructions at home, the Ateneo is where I was taught to remember to keep the spirit of magis burning in my heart wherever we go.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

An Atenean and proud to be one

By Patricia Harn
2bU! Correspondent

I DID not want to go to the Ateneo de Manila University but I wasn't given a choice. I come from a family of diehard, true-blue Ateneans. Almost from the day I was born, I was told about how wonderful Ateneo was. My family talked about fun times with friends, scary teachers and eye-opening experiences.

As a child I never fully understood whether Ateneo was a school or a theme park in disguise. When I graduated from high school, application forms and brochures were shoved in my face and I was discouraged from thinking about applying in other schools. It was Ateneo or bust.

So I became an Atenean. At first, I did not know what being an Atenean meant. But after three years, I've started to feel that following family "tradition" was not such a bad idea after all.

Being an Atenean has its perks. First, and arguably the most important, is the freedom we have, maybe because Jesuits are supposed to be a liberal religious order. Freedom of expression is truly respected in the university. Students and teachers have generally open relationships. Teachers always try to communicate with and genuinely get to know students. It is easier to relate to teachers, ask them for help, and even express an opinion that may be contrary to theirs. Opinions are valued, no matter how trivial they are. I believe this helps students learn to think for themselves, to become critical thinkers.

Individual styles

We are also free to dress anyway we want. Ateneo has no dress code. You can change your hair color five times a week, wear a suit, or use the same pair of jeans every day for the rest of your college life.

Of course, students are expected to be responsible enough not to wear utterly inappropriate outfits. Common sense dictates that bikinis are not for a 7:30 a.m. Philosophy (or, worse, Theology) class. I have yet to see someone wear clothes that result in indecent exposure. But I have seen guys in skirts, a group of freshmen in baby outfits (complete with spandex shorts, makeshift diapers, baby bottles and bonnets), and a girl with a dog.

This brings me to another reason I like Ateneo: the diversity of the people. Contrary to what many believe, the university is not composed solely of rich kids. The image could be the result of how much tuition we pay, but if you look around the campus, you will notice that the student population consists of different people from all sorts of places. There are foreigners, *balikbayan*, kids from the province and from Manila. There are artists, musicians, intellectuals and non-conformists. And if you don't know yet who you are, the university allows you to explore your options and find out.

It's difficult to shake off the perception that Ateneo is elitist. Perhaps some people are but the rest? I don't know. Elitism can be positive or negative depending on one's perspective. For example, it can be argued that the bench system in the university (different groups hang out around certain benches in various locations in the campus) promotes cliques and territoriality. But the system also promotes camaraderie. The benches give a sense of security and belonging.

Elitism doesn't mean Ateneans don't have brains. Ateneo's a tough school. If everyone depended solely on "image," then the university would lose about 75 percent of its students.

The university may have flaws, but it also has strengths. Perhaps this is why I love it. It's the entire package-the positive and negative—that makes Ateneo what it is. And it's the entire package that makes me proud to be an Atenean.

FAB FILIPINIANA. China Cojuangco shines in the chorus in her theater debut.

Musical kicks up a storm of 'dust' and tears

Tim Yap

PRESIDENT'S HONOR. GMA congratulates the cast, led by Waya Gallardo.

WEEKEND warriors may mourn the seemingly "same old, same old" crowd and ambience of urban Manila—what with its weekly grind of music and theme parties—fun and frolicsome it may be, it can get pretty stale as well. If variety is the spice of life, then better to jump in and take all that the scene has to offer.

Outside the hustle and bustle of party Manila, I decided to spend the weekend with my sparring partner, "it" girl **Rissa Samson**, as we filled our cultural calendar to the brim. We watched the Saturday and Sunday matinee shows of Trumpets' "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," and Ballet Philippines' production of "Shoes." Both shows provided much visual and auditory delight—with great sets, awesome singing and dancing, resounding laughter and heart-wrenching messages.

TAHAN NA. Noel Rayos and Waya Gallardo

Saturday night, we found ourselves not in a dance club, but at the Music Museum, where the Musicat musical "Alikabok" was having its final show. As soon as the lights faded, the stars shone. Its young cast shimmered with unparalleled brilliance. From the show's leads to the members of the chorus, everyone gave the performance of their lives, resulting in a very emotional curtain call, both from the actors onstage and the audience who watched the show that night.

Scene-stealer

Crowd favorite was **Cacai Bautista**, who was wackily endearing as Nana Rosita, what with her shrill voice and crazy antics. She redefined the term scene-stealer. The male leads were engaging—**Nonoy Zuniga** was compassionate and every inch a noble gentleman as Don Simeon Vallejo. **Noel Rayos** made women in the audience fall in love with his role as an understanding husband. **Jeffrey Hidalgo** was the picture of a Pinoy hero as Ignacio—brave and bold with a sexy twist.

I got sentimental while watching **Waya Gallardo**, who was my theater workshop classmate when I was a kid. At that young stage, I knew this was going to be her home—she was a natural, an artist who knows what she wants. And the way she hit her high notes! She struck me as a young Filipino version of **Bernadette Peters**. Her role as Anna fit her to a "T," a woman who finally discovered herself after learning the story of her husband's Lola Bising.

LOVE LORN. Jeffrey Hidalgo and Cris Vilonco

The role of the tragic Bising, the Filipina fighter, was played with so much conviction by **Cris Villonco**. Her character's journey from sweet lass to a woman in love to a patriot who was willing to stand for herself and for her country was impressive. She exceeded everyone's expectations of her, especially in her solo number where she mourned for lost love. She was able to squeeze out every emotion, making the audience feel the terrible sense of loss. So much so that Gift Gate's **Virgie Ramos** literally cried a river from that scene till the show's end.

Even in the chorus, **China Cojuangco** radiated so much beauty and grace. I had a trip watching her in the opening act as the neighborhood harlot, fully made up and clad in a micro-mini and net stockings—it was so far from the China everyone knew. In the show, she played about 10 roles—from Trining to a Katipunero to a *sabungero*. She proved that there are no small roles. Here's to seeing more of China in the theater.

ANDREAS Zini and Mai Mai Cojuangco

Ovation

Come curtain call, the audience gave the cast a standing ovation. It was a tearful exchange—for the cast, since it was their last show together; for the audience, since they were moved by the story and the performances (not to mention the "white-washed" stylized direction by **Tony Espejo** that gave "Alikabok" a contemporary edge); and for Cris, who is leaving for New York soon for studies.

GIFTS EVERY DAY. Virgie Ramos and Cris Villonco after the show

ALEX and Gina Godinez

The moms in the audience were equally emotional. Aside from the matriarchal Tita Virgie, producers **Celeste Legaspi**, **Monique Villonco** and **Girlie Rodis** heaped praise on the cast. **Tingting Cojuangco** was beaming while **Gina Godinez** was in tears of joy. I even spotted my editor, **Chelo Formoso**, with tears in her eyes. Later, I also shed some.

Also in the audience that night were youth favorite **Raul Roco** and style icons **Ricco** and **Tina Ocampo** with their kids. The whole run had its share of luminaries for an audience, led by **President Macapagal-Arroyo** herself. **Fernando Poe Jr.** and wife **Susan** watched the matinee show earlier that day.

It was really refreshing to spend an evening in the theater, and leave it with a new perspective on life, on our country and its rich history. What a way to spend the weekend!

MUSICAT MAGIC. Celeste Legaspi with Ricco and Tina Ocampo and daughter Selina

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Do Cellasene tablets eliminate cellulite?

911

Kinny Salas

AFTER GIVING birth to my twins, my cellulite became more pronounced. I have been dieting and exercising, but I still can't see major improvements. I have tried creams and lotions, but the moment I stop using them, the cellulite reappears. I want something that works permanently, and I have heard that even through Endermologie treatments that are so expensive, the cellulite will eventually come back but at a longer time period than with lotions.

KAROLINA

I have tried Cellasene and it did work for me. In fact I even interviewed its marketing managers. They were very honest with me about Cellasene.

While it is true that one box does not eliminate cellulite, visible results will appear in 6-8 weeks. A pack is good for two weeks only, and it should be taken 2-3 times a day and it costs P1,495 a box. For six weeks, you will need 2-3 extra boxes, and eight weeks require 3-4 extras, if you are to take them three times a day religiously.

I saw a big improvement on the sixth week at the end of the third pack. After the fourth pack, my cellulite went from moderate/mild to mild. I asked for a fifth box just in case and my cellulite was invisible after. I would see very little of them when I pinched or rolled my thighs. I did not lose any large amount of weight though, because that isn't what

DO/ p.E4

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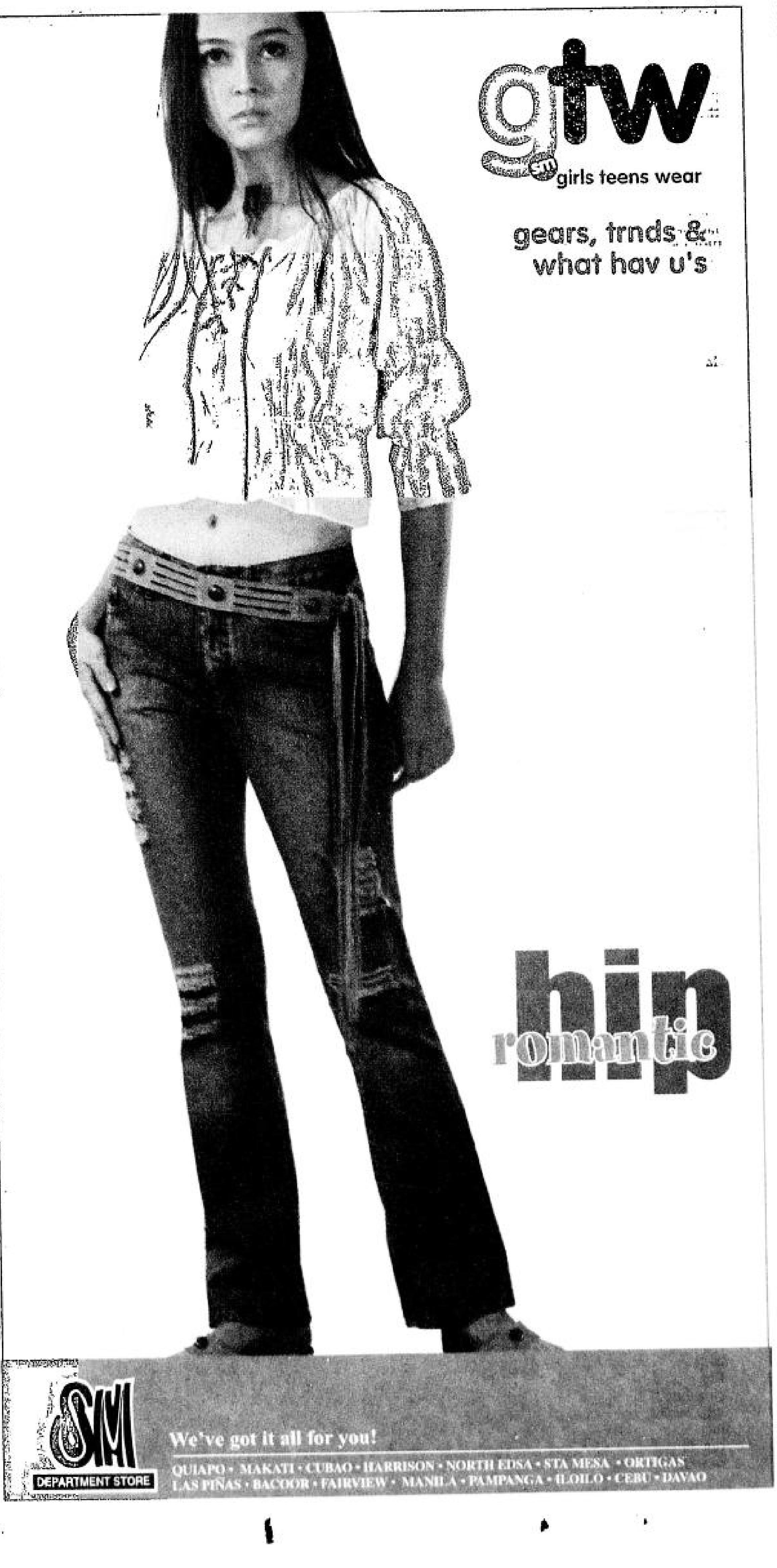

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Do Cellasene tablets eliminate cellulite?

From page E3

Cellasene is for—it concentrates mainly on improving circulation and generating heat on cellulite area to melt them off.

Cellulite is trapped fat, so no matter how hard you exercise or diet, the body cannot access it for fuel. Cellasene helps by loosening the cellulite and allowing the body to access it for energy.

Cellasene, however, will only work for mild to moderate cellulite. Severe cellulite cannot be helped by Cellasene because skin's elasticity has already been damaged. Severe cases are when you are standing straight and not touching your thighs, but there are rolls of fat in three or four levels (like *bilbil* but only on thighs). One's only hope is surgery.

The facts: Cellasene will not yield permanent results; cellulite will come back in 4-6 months. This is because cellulite is not a virus but a hereditary tendency in the family.

The key here is prevention. If you notice cellulite forming, start taking Cellasene 2-3 times a day so it will not progress. Exercising will keep it at bay as well, but once it is in, treatments are the only way to get them out.

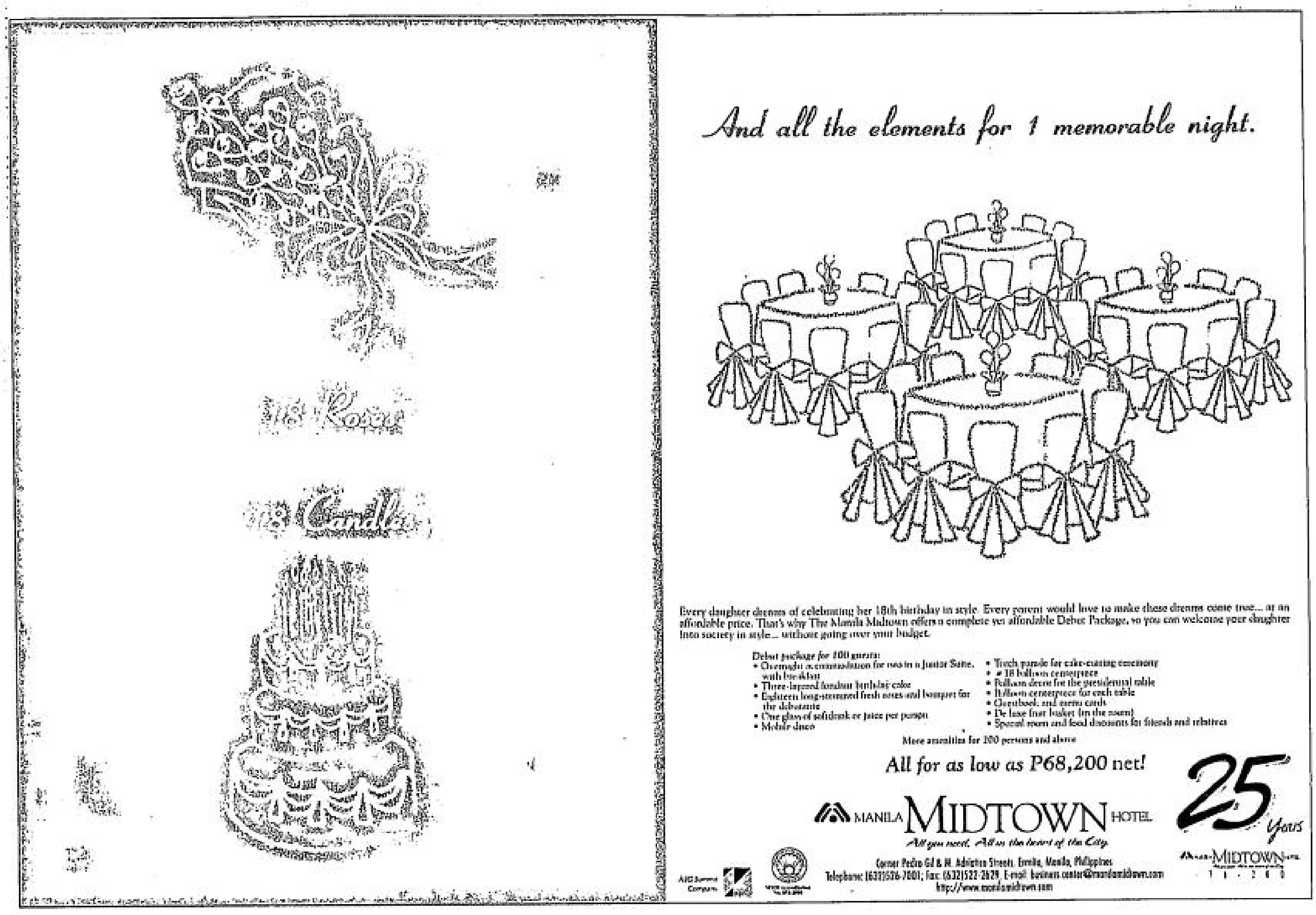
Kinny's discovery

ESTEE Lauder sent me a few things to try out. What really stood out were three tiny 3.5 ml bottles of fragrance oils from its Pleasures line.

One bottle had aqua liquid called Sparkling Essence for the clean, fresh and spirited woman. It smelled like a combination of green tea and Cool Water cologne. The second bottle contained a lavender liquid called Warm Essences for the soft and sensual woman. It has rich and woodsy undertones. Bottle No. 3 had a peach liquid called Floral Essence, with a sheer delicate bouquet scent. It's like walking in your garden in the peak of spring. Think of how Sleeping Beauty must look in person—she would certainly be using this peach variant.

These are scented oils, so one dab on pulse points with the tiny dipping stick will last the whole day. They're small enough to fit those miniscule purses for formals. It's available at Rustan's Department Store, with a retail price of P1,000 for a box containing all three essences.

Starting next week, Makeover 911 will come out on Fridays in Lifestyle's Trendspotting subsection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